THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp ****** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 ~ VOL. CCLXXVI NO. 58 WSJ.com ★★★★ $4.00

DJIA Closed (28133.31) NASDAQ Closed (11313.13) STOXX 600 367.97 ▲ 1.7% 10-YR. TREAS. Closed (0.720%) OIL Closed ($39.77) GOLD Closed ($1,923.90) EURO $1.1816 YEN 106.28

What's News

Business & Finance

Production problems at a Boeing 787 Dreamliner factory have prompted air-safety regulators to review quality-control lapses potentially stretching back almost a decade, according to an internal government memo and people familiar with the matter. **A1**

◆ **Investors returning** from the Labor Day weekend are keeping an eye out for signs that a rally in tech stocks and the market recovery it fueled are losing steam. **A1**

◆ **Shares of SoftBank** tumbled 7%, as investors reacted to news of a bet the company has placed on a rise in tech stocks. **B3**

◆ **Samsung signed** a $6.65 billion contract with Verizon for network equipment and services, a major boost to the South Korean firm's quest to become a key 5G supplier. **B1**

◆ **Wish joined Amazon** in barring foreign seed sales after thousands of suspicious seed packets, many postmarked from China, arrived at households around the world this summer. **B1**

◆ **Citigroup** and a big hedge-fund client are locked in an uncharacteristically public feud that has embroiled top executives and laid bare a $900 million mistaken payment by the bank. **B1**

◆ **Stock in China's SMIC** fell sharply after the U.S. government said it was considering placing export restrictions on the semiconductor manufacturer. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **Entering** a contentious stage in the presidential campaign, Trump is seeking to focus voters on an economic rebound and public safety, while Biden is redoubling efforts to make the election a referendum on Trump's performance on the coronavirus and the economy. **A4**

◆ **Germany signaled** it is prepared to reconsider its Nord Stream 2 gas-pipeline project with Russia in light of the poisoning of Kremlin critic Navalny, who was roused from an induced coma. **A8**

◆ **PG&E was set** to cut power in parts of Northern California to reduce wildfire risks, a move it said would affect about 172,000 customers in 22 counties. **A3**

◆ **China is launching** its own initiative to set global data-security standards, countering U.S. efforts to persuade like-minded countries to ringfence their networks from Chinese technology. **A9**

◆ **A Belarus** opposition leader has been abducted, an opposition council said, raising fears that government authorities are intensifying a crackdown. **A8**

◆ **A Saudi court** reduced the death sentences of five men convicted in the killing of dissident journalist Khashoggi to 20-year prison terms. **A8**

◆ **A British judge** refused a request by lawyers for Julian Assange to adjourn the WikiLeaks founder's extradition hearing until 2021. **A8**

JOURNAL REPORT
Investing in Funds: Lessons From the Last Pandemic **R1-10**

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Labor Day Makes a Big Splash as Summer Draws to an End

PAUL HENNESSY/NURPHOTO/ZUMA PRESS

ALL IN: A boy jumps into the water at Wekiwa Springs State Park in Apopka, Fla., on Monday. As crowds turned out around the country for the long weekend, officials worried that holiday gatherings could lead to a spike in Covid-19 cases. A6

Sharp Tech Pullback Unnerves Investors in Highflying Stocks

By Amrith Ramkumar

Investors returning from the Labor Day weekend are keeping an eye out for signs that a dizzying rally in technology stocks and the market recovery it fueled are losing steam.

The Nasdaq Composite slid more than 6% over two days last week after hitting a fresh high, led by Thursday's record one-day decline in market value at Apple Inc., the most-valuable U.S.-listed company. Selling intensified Friday, at one point pushing the index down almost 10% from its record and spreading to markets including crude oil and gold, before a broad reversal narrowed losses in some stocks and sent others back into more familiar, green territory.

Few investors believe the late-week rout signals the end of a rally that has taken the Nasdaq to 43 record closes and pushed the S&P 500 up more than 6% for the year. The economy continues to show signs of improvement, and with interest rates near record lows, the investor mantra that "there is no alternative" to purchasing the shares of major U.S. corporations remains very much intact. The main driver of the tech boom—strong growth that has been boosted during the pandemic as more consumers work and learn remotely—also still holds, investors said.

Even so, the scale of the gains among major technology shares this year, the resulting rich valuations and the gobsmacking market capitalizations of many of these firms raise the possibility of large share-price drawdowns this fall.

The Nasdaq Composite is up 26% for the year. Swings in the shares of Alphabet Inc., Amazon.com Inc., Facebook Inc., Microsoft Corp. and others stand to accentuate expected volatility around the U.S. presidential election and attempts to control the coronavirus out-

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◆ James Mackintosh: Where danger lurks in tech rally.... B1

Flaws in Boeing's 787 Jets Prompt Review

Regulators look into lapses at Dreamliner plant that may stretch back nearly a decade

By Andrew Tangel And Andy Pasztor

Production problems at a Boeing Co. 787 Dreamliner factory have prompted air-safety regulators to review quality-control lapses potentially stretching back almost a decade, according to an internal government memo and people familiar with the matter.

The plane maker has told U.S. aviation regulators that it produced certain parts at its South Carolina facilities that failed to meet its own design and manufacturing standards, according to an Aug. 31 internal Federal Aviation Administration memo reviewed by The Wall Street Journal.

As a result of "nonconforming" sections of the rear fuselage, or body of the plane, that fell short of engineering standards, according to the memo and these people, a high-level FAA review is considering mandating enhanced or accelerated inspections that could cover hundreds of jets.

The memo, a routine update or summary of safety issues pending in the FAA's Seattle office that oversees Boeing design and manufacturing issues, says such a safety directive could cover as many as about 900 of the roughly 1,000 Dreamliners delivered since 2011.

The final language depends on the outcome of continuing reviews by Boeing and the agency, as well as decisions by more senior FAA officials. The extent of the review reflects

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THE COVID STORM

'Diabolical' Virus Outpaces Science

SARS-CoV-2 is wily, with mysterious origins and powerful ability to infect and spread

By Robert Lee Hotz And Natasha Khan

The new coronavirus is a killer with a crowbar, breaking and entering human cells with impunity. It hitchhikes across continents carried on coughs and careless hands, driven by its own urgent necessity to survive.

It has a gregarious side that makes it hard to resist. It loves a party. The persistent social climber claims its victims around the world by riding on moments of the most innocent of human interactions—a shared laugh, a conversation, an embrace. And it is a liar. SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19, often misleads the body's immune systems.

Taken on its own terms, SARS-CoV-2 is the infectious disease success of the past 100 years.

Almost unmatched in the annals of emerging human contagions, it has parlayed a few chance infections into a pandemic of around 27 mil-

Please turn to page A10

2020 Presidential Race Enters Final Sprint

PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

President Trump touted the recent jobs report and Democratic candidate Joe Biden arrived in Harrisburg, Pa., to meet with union members as Labor Day kicked off a key stretch of the race. A4

Routines Get a Reboot At Work and at Home

By Arian Campo-Flores

Sonia Dillane, a software development engineer at Amazon.com Inc., won't be remote working at the kitchen table in her Seattle townhouse anymore, sitting in a dining chair that irritated her back.

Instead, roughly half a year into the coronavirus pandemic, she is setting up an office in a guest room. Her husband, a software development engineer at Amazon, is creating one in the den. She also won't be attending services for the Jewish High Holy Days later this month as she normally would. And she won't plan a getaway with her husband for the winter.

"We can't just limp along," said Ms. Dillane, 31 years old. "I think it's easier to mentally prepare that all the next year is a wash."

Fall is typically a season of revival, as people return to work, children head to school, sports seasons launch and cultural life awakens. This year, with the coronavirus pandemic still spreading in much of the U.S., it is a season of deeper adaptation.

Workers are overhauling routines and home offices, families are creating new rituals and businesses are trying

Please turn to page A6

◆ With no child care, parents quit work..... A3
◆ Families face dilemma over youth sports..... A14

Travelers Win Quarantine Hotel Lottery

* * *

In Singapore, you might get 'stuck' at the Ritz

By Chong Koh Ping

Joy Van Dee arrived in Singapore after a 12-hour flight from Amsterdam, dreading two weeks of mandatory quarantine with her toddler in a government-designated facility.

Until, that is, their shuttle bus parked at the five-star Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore, and they were taken to a luxurious 549-square-foot room, with river views. "We hit the jackpot," said Mrs. Van Dee, a 42-year-old interior designer, who didn't know her destination until the last moment.

This is Singapore's quarantine lottery, where most arrivals to the island city-state have

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U.S. NEWS

THE OUTLOOK | By Josh Mitchell

Education Boost Isn't What It Used to Be

The U.S. lacks a key ingredient that helped propel it to economic dominance in the 20th century: productivity gains from higher education. Figuring out why could help influence the economy's long-term trajectory once it emerges from the coronavirus crisis.

In 2009, President Obama, worried about the economy's global standing, set a goal for the U.S. to have the world's most-educated workforce by 2020. The share of U.S. workers with college degrees has grown significantly, even if the country fell short of his goal. But those gains haven't translated into a substantial productivity boost as Mr. Obama and economists hoped.

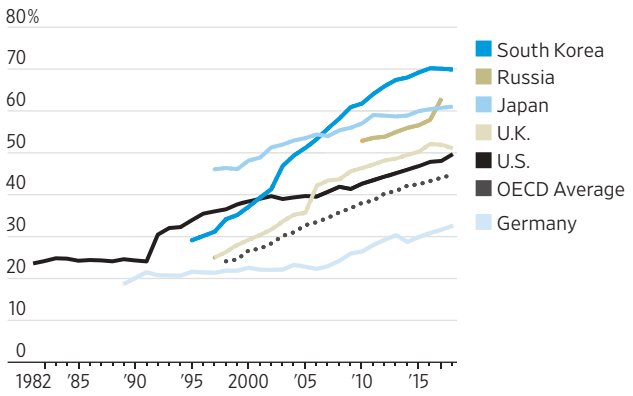
Rising education levels—first in high school, then in college and graduate school—helped fuel strong economic growth in the latter half of the past century. In 1910, just 14% of Americans age 25 or older had a high-school diploma and just 3% had a bachelor's degree, census data show. By 2000, 84% had graduated from high school and 26% had a bachelor's degree.

As Americans raised their skills, the country shifted from an agrarian economy in the 19th century to an industrial one and then a digital one, leading to electrified cities, the mass assembly line, television, the computer, men on the moon, and the internet. American households became wealthier, and living standards climbed rapidly.

It was all tied to education, argued Harvard economists Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz in their 2008 book, "The Race Between Education and Technology." More-educated workers use their knowledge and skills to invent and innovate, helping the economy become more efficient, thus boosting productivity—or output per labor hour—the key ingredient to rising living standards, they say.

Productivity rose an average of 2.3% a year from 1947 to 2000, Labor Department data show. Ms. Goldin and Mr. Katz estimate roughly a quarter of the average annual gain came from rising educational attainment.

Share of adults ages 25 to 34 with a postsecondary degree



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

When Mr. Obama took office in 2009, his advisers worried that slow gains in higher education threatened to undermine long-term economic growth. In 1992, the U.S. had more college graduates as a share of all citizens between ages 25 to 64 than any other developed country, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But by 2009, the U.S. ranked fourth, behind Canada, Israel and Japan. Mr. Obama's advisers believed the U.S. economy could slip into mediocrity if it didn't further boost its "human capital," or workers' knowledge and skills. Improving human capital would lead to stronger productivity growth, they said.

College enrollment, which had already started rising when Mr. Obama took office, accelerated during his first term. By 2019, under the Trump administration, nearly half of all Americans between ages 25 and 29 had an associate degree or higher, up from 37% in 2005, census data show. The share with a bachelor's rose to 39% from 29%.

Nonetheless, productivity has grown tepidly. From 2007 to 2019, the productivity of nonfarm businesses rose an average of 1.4% a year. Why is unclear.

Mr. Katz says the data show higher education still helps individuals and society on average. One piece of evidence is the college wage premium: In recent years, college graduates have, on average, earned 75% more than workers with a high-school diploma who never attended college, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Many economists believe employers' willingness to pay graduates more proves that grads are more productive. The persistent wage premium suggests demand for their skills and knowledge hasn't been satiated, the theory goes.

Mr. Katz says higher education, in the aggregate, doesn't carry the same productivity punch it once did. In the 21st century, the contribution of higher-education gains to annual productivity growth has been cut in half, compared with the past century, he said.

He believes one big factor is the change in the types of schools Americans attend. For those who attend public and nonprofit four-year universities, there is still a big payoff in the form of higher wages and productivity. But, he said, a lot of Americans who earned degrees this century attended schools without a big payoff, particularly many for-profit colleges.

George Mason University economist Bryan Caplan, in his 2018 book, "The Case Against Education," offers a different explanation. He argues that while many college graduates are more productive than nongraduates, it isn't because college made them that way. Rather, many graduates already had valuable attributes—such as an ability to focus and learn quickly—before college. Their degree simply signals to employers that they have long had these attributes, making it easier for hiring managers to sort through job applicants.

Worker Visa Bans Hamper Seasonal Businesses

By Justin Baer And Michelle Hackman

GATLINBURG, Tenn.—Jerry Huskey, a senior staff member at Ober Gatlinburg, spent his summer struggling to hire enough staff to operate its amusement park and he is dreading the same challenge as the winter ski season approaches.

Lockdowns and travel restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic created one set of hiring hurdles this year; Washington created others. In June, President Trump banned several work-based visa types through the end of the year, including the J-1 and H-2B programs for seasonal foreign workers, with the aim of safeguarding any open jobs for Americans.

Recruiting those U.S. workers, however, proved difficult this summer because the seasonal jobs aren't permanent, affordable housing is hard to find, and, in some locations, there simply aren't enough workers available, business leaders say.

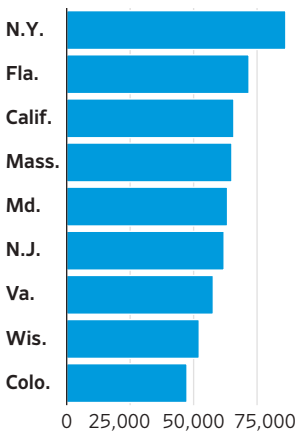
The enhanced unemployment benefits approved by Congress and the White House this summer also meant American workers could make more money staying at home rather than taking a temporary job.

On a July afternoon in Gatlinburg, a parade of cars with out-of-state license plates inched along Parkway, the city's busy commercial strip. Yet with a total population of just 4,000 residents, Ober Gatlinburg and other businesses couldn't fill all the jobs needed during the bustling summer.

One restaurant that was closed in early July left a note on its door citing staffing issues, while others staked "Always Hiring" signs out front. The amusement park operated with reduced hours, and couldn't open all of its venues, Mr. Huskey said.

Ober Gatlinburg started hiring J-1 workers in 1995, when the business brought in about 15 foreign employees. That number has swelled to as many as 120 in the summer and more than 150 during most winter months. Along the way, Ober Gatlinburg created housing for its temporary staff. This year, though, Mr. Huskey could obtain only 25 J-1-visa workers for the summer. As for the looming winter season, the business hasn't lined up any foreign workers yet.

U.S. states with most foreign workers on seasonal jobs through J-1 summer work travel program since 2009



Source: U.S. State Department

"It's very frustrating," said Mr. Huskey, who previously ran human resources and now serves as Ober Gatlinburg's risk manager. "We depend heavily on winter—it's the only time when we're the only game in town."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, along with several other employers and organizations, have filed legal challenges to Mr. Trump's visa ban, arguing that the president issued the order without evidence that foreign workers actually displace Americans, and that he doesn't hold the power to single-handedly erase entire visa categories.

A federal court in Washington on Friday night partially upheld the ban, including on J-1 and H-2B workers, though a different court is set to reach a preliminary decision in a separate suit against the ban within a few weeks.

"Many J-1 employers in winter resort towns are scared about how the current visa restrictions will impact their companies," said John Baselice, executive director of immigration policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "These businesses will be left out in the cold."

Critics of the foreign-worker programs are skeptical of businesses' arguments.

The visa programs offer employers a lot of flexibility to expand or contract their workforces, and those businesses aren't required to pay payroll taxes on those workers who arrive via J-1 visas, said David North, a fellow with the Center for Immigration Studies, an organization advocating more immigration restrictions. For many seasonal employers, hiring foreign workers is convenient, and cost-effective.

"It's so much easier to call up this middleman who has an in with a J-1 program, to get people in bunches and who are rights-free," Mr. North said. "They always talk about labor shortages, and they never talk about wage shortages."

He added: "If you're going to run a business like this in the U.S., you ought to figure out how to recruit U.S. workers."

U.S. WATCH

CALIFORNIA

Fires in 2020 Burned Record 2 Million Acres

Wildfires have burned more than 2 million acres in California this year, setting a state record even as crews battled dozens of growing blazes in sweltering temperatures Monday.

The most striking thing about the record is how early it was set, with the most dangerous part of the year ahead, said Lynne Tolmachoff, spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"It's a little unnerving because September and October are historically our worst months for fires," she said. "It's usually hot, and the fuels really dry out. And we see more of our wind events."

The previous high was 1.96 million acres burned in 2018. Cal Fire began tracking the numbers in 1987.

Firefighters struggled to corral several dangerous blazes ahead of dry, hot winds predicted to raise fire danger to critical levels in the coming days. Evacuation orders were expanded to more mountain communities as the largest blaze, the Creek Fire, churned through the Sierra National Forest.

Firefighters working in steep terrain saved the tiny town of Shaver Lake from flames that roared down hillsides toward a marina. About 30 houses were destroyed in the remote hamlet of Big Creek, according to resident Toby Wait.

"About half the private homes in town burned down," he said. "Words cannot even begin to describe the devastation of this community."

Sheriff's deputies went door to door to make sure residents were complying with orders to leave. Officials hoped to keep the fire from pushing west, possibly toward Yosemite National Park.

Cal Fire said 14,800 firefighters were battling 23 major fires in the state. California has seen 900 wildfires since Aug. 15, many of them started by an intense series of thousands of lightning strikes. There have been eight fire deaths and more than 3,300 structures destroyed.

—Associated Press

JOSH EDELSON/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

INFERNO: A California firefighter in unincorporated Madera County doused flames Monday in one of the more than 20 blazes across the state.

GEORGIA

Fugitive Accused Of Firing at Officer

Authorities searched Monday for a Texas fugitive they describe as "armed and dangerous" who is accused of shooting a deputy in Dalton, Ga.

Dalton Potter, 29 years old, fired numerous gunshots at Whitfield County Sheriff's Deputy Darrell Hackney from inside his vehicle, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said Monday. Deputy Hackney was struck, but his ballistic vest saved him, the GBI said.

Mr. Potter had been hauling a stolen trailer and was pulled over by deputies before the gunfire happened around midnight, authorities said.

Deputy Hackney and another deputy returned fire, but Mr. Potter made his getaway by driving south on Interstate 75. He wrecked the truck and escaped into the woods on foot, the GBI said.

—Associated Press

LAS VEGAS

Police Shoot Dead Woman's Attacker

Police said an officer fatally shot a man who was attacking a woman after being called to a home for a domestic dispute on Sunday.

The officer fired one shot through a mesh screen door after he spotted the man cutting the woman, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department said.

It wasn't clear what he was using to cut the woman.

The man, who hasn't been identified, died at the scene. The woman was in stable condition with multiple lacerations.

—Associated Press

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

Tuesday: Japan's second-quarter **gross domestic product** is expected to be revised down from the initial estimate of a 7.8% contraction from the prior quarter, reflecting weaker capital expenditure plans. A separate release on household spending for July is forecast to show a 3.7% decline, following June's 1.2% drop.

Wednesday: China's **consumer prices** are estimated to have risen 2.5% in August from the same period a year earlier. The deflation of August's year-over-year producer-price index is likely to have narrowed to 2% from 2.4% in July thanks to an uptick in commodity prices.

Thursday: The **European Central Bank** is expected to leave its policies unchanged, but its officials may signal that a further expansion of the ECB's bond-purchase program is likely.

U.S. jobless claims are expected to have edged lower again in the week ended Sept. 5, more evidence the labor market is slowly healing. Even with another drop, however, the proxy for layoffs would remain well above levels seen during any previous recession, underscoring the severe dislocation from the new coronavirus and efforts to contain it.

Friday: U.S. **consumer prices** are expected to show a rise for the third consecutive month in August, though at a slower pace than June and July. Prices have picked up for some goods and services as the economy reopens, though overall inflation pressure has been muted and is expected to remain so in the coming months.

CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

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With No Child Care, Parents Quit Work

By Gwynn Guilford

Clara Vazquez's 7-year-old son, Kevin, asks her a troubling question before he goes to sleep each night. " 'Mom, who's going to take care of me tomorrow?' he asks me," said the 27-year-old resident of Sunnyside, Wash. "I feel so bad because I have to say, 'I don't know.' "

She will have to come up with an answer soon, and it may cost Ms. Vazquez a big part of her livelihood. In two weeks, her son's online-only classes start running from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If she can't find child care, she will give up at least one of her two jobs as a home health-care worker to help her son manage his studies.

"I don't want to quit my job because it's going to put us in financial strain," said Ms. Vazquez, whose husband is a truck driver. "But I feel like I'm out of options."

It is a trade-off that looms for millions of families across the U.S. whose children are returning to partial or completely remote learning at K-12 schools this fall, and the potential blow to the economy could be big enough to rival a small or medium-size recession.

According to research that Brevan Howard Asset Management recently shared with its investors, about 4.3 million U.S. workers could find themselves staying home unless they find other child-care arrangements.

If those parents are counted among the unemployed, it would boost the unemployment rate by 2.6 percentage points, according to Brevan Howard. That would be a sharper increase than occurred in both the 1990-91 and 2001 recessions, though smaller than what occurred in the 2007-09 downturn, the researchers said.

A recent analysis by Barclays economist Jonathan Millar and colleagues found that the closures of all schools from September to December 2020 would result in a reduction of U.S. gross domestic product in 2020 on the order of between 0.4% and 0.8%. That compares with an inflation-adjusted GDP decline of 0.1% in 1991 and a slight increase in 2001.

The release of these analyses comes as school plans remain in flux, and as outbreaks have flared up at K-12 schools that have opened around the country. This rocky start is under way as the U.S. economy's recovery brought the August unemployment rate down to 8.4%, from a peak of 14.7% in April during the height of pandemic-related business closures.

Brevan Howard arrived at its conclusions by calculating that

About 4.3 million workers could be forced to stay home, an analysis found.

around 5.3 million working parents with children under the age of 14 have full-time jobs that can't be done from home, and lack another parent or adult to take up the child-care slack. Based on the school-reopening plans of the nation's 100 largest school districts, which comprise around one-fifth of public-school students, Brevan Howard's calculations suggest that at most around 19% of students are returning to in-person classes this fall. With around 81% of children attending classes from their kitchen tables, that translates to 4.3 million workers who will have to stop working unless they can cobble together another source of child care.

The demands imposed on parents by this new virtual school year this fall are, for many working parents, straining stopgap measures that had gotten families through the pandemic up until now.

Mary Ann Shepherd said that helping her sons through virtual learning when their Mobile, Ala., schools shut down in the spring was manageable. Teachers were flexible, and gave everyone a passing grade. "This is not like that—you can fail virtual school this time," said the mother of four.

Buses Forge New Path Back to School

By Valerie Bauerlein

One of the hardest parts of getting children back in school this fall is physically getting them there.

Covid-19 has turned the already difficult job of running school buses into a logistical nightmare, with transportation directors scrambling to figure out how to maintain social distance, sanitize a vehicle in near-constant use and protect the health of students and drivers, many of the latter who are retirees.

In school systems with alternating schedules, planners must draw multiple routes to get different groups of students to school on different days.

Managers commonly face start dates that are a moving target, making it hard to keep drivers who typically only get paid for the hours they work.

"I hate to use the word unprecedented, but this is unique," said Charles Hood, executive director of the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services.

The "yellow-bus industry" has spent decades refining how to prevent crashes and only a few months on the spread of diseases, Mr. Hood said. "Quite frankly, we're no more expert at it than anybody else."

Over the summer a coalition of national school transportation trade groups, including Mr. Hood's, studied how best to run a school bus program in a pandemic.

It quickly became clear that there would be no one-size-fits-all template, said study co-author Jim Regan, a Chicago-based transportation consultant. More than 25 million students typically ride 480,000 school buses a day, according to the American School Bus Council. Each of the 13,000 school districts nationwide has its own financial constraints, state and local regulations and school board desires to consider, Mr. Regan said.

Instead the Student Transportation Aligned for Return To School (STARTS) task force built a 225-item tool kit of best practices, based on a review of 50 pandemic response plans from companies such as Walmart Inc. and Delta Air Lines Inc. to agencies like the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the New York City subway system.

Among the major suggestions are requiring masks and boarding the bus from back to front.

"Remember the movie 'The Martian' with Matt Damon, and he says, 'Hey, you solve one problem and you solve the next one and you survive?' " Mr. Regan said. "That's what this is. This is a risk, we've got to solve it, then you solve the next one."

So far, only a handful of the 70 biggest city districts are planning to go back to in-person learning this fall, according to an analysis by The Wall Street Journal. In some states, school districts are encouraged to reduce pressure on the transportation system by not offering bus service to students who live within 1.5 miles of the school, and otherwise encouraging students to walk, bike or carpool to school.

Many of the first districts to go back to physical school are in the Sun Belt. In Pensacola, Fla., the Escambia County School District this year is transporting 13,000, or a third of the system's 40,000 students. Typically, the district would transport 24,000, or 60%, of the students.

Transportation Director Darlene Hart said Escambia, like many districts, has long struggled to keep bus drivers on the payroll. Some of her drivers are older and decided not to come back; some took jobs in food delivery or other lines of work. The district has 230 drivers for 280 slots, she said.

Ms. Hart said she would have liked to space out children at one per window seat, or 24 riders on a 12-row bus, as many experts advise. But she said she didn't have the luxury of staff or spare buses, so her average ridership is from 30 to 50 students in pre-assigned seats, with siblings grouped together.

There are new hand-sanitizing stations at the front of the bus, plastic face shields for drivers and bottles of sanitizer to be sprayed on every touchable surface at the end of the shift, a major change from the quick sweep of the past.

Cor'Darius Jones, an Escambia County driver and maker of a series of "Mr. Bus Driver" viral videos, said he felt as well-trained as he could be for the first day of school, but was still caught off-guard.

"It was definitely more stressful," he said. "You already have the normal challenges of driving, watching mirrors, watching for students cutting up. Now I'm looking for any child that looks ill, too."

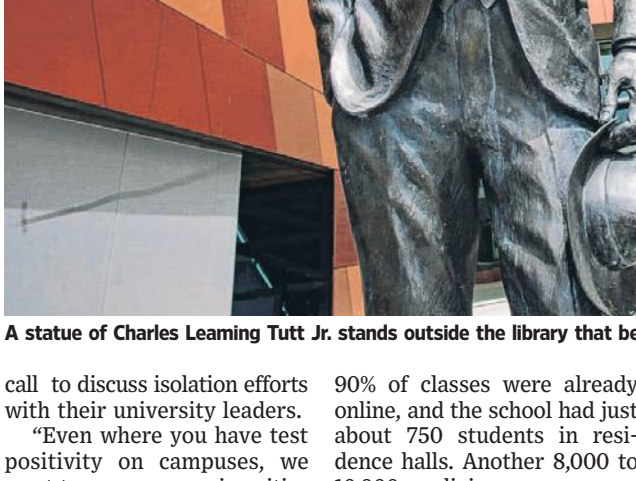
—Yoree Koh contributed to this article.

JOSHUA A. BICKEL/THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students get hand sanitizer as they stepped off the school bus last week at Heritage Elementary School in Lewis Center, Ohio.

Seating Chart

A common arrangement being used on school buses is to have one student to a seat in alternating positions.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Unease Rises as Colleges Send Students Home

By Melissa Korn

Administrators at California State University, Chico, determined in late August that coronavirus outbreaks in classrooms and residence halls could be catastrophic at the school. Its response: to send students back home.

Many schools have made similar decisions, including **James Madison University**, North Carolina State University, Colorado College and the State University of New York in Oneonta. Public-health officials worry that dispatching students to their hometowns, often without testing them before departure, could lead to new outbreaks around the country.

"Shipping the problem back to the community, where they can further spread, just doesn't seem like the right answer," said A. David Paltiel, a professor at the Yale School of Public Health. "Just because a kid is asymptomatic doesn't mean it's safe to send that kid home. They could be exposed and incubating. They could be in fact a ticking time bomb."

Dr. Paltiel said the viral load rises steeply in the few days following exposure, and someone infected can transmit the virus to others starting around day three after exposure—before symptoms may present, if they ever present.

Vice President Mike Pence urged governors in a recent call to discuss isolation efforts with their university leaders.

"Even where you have test positivity on campuses, we want to encourage universities to have students remain on or near campus and minimize the potential exposure to the wider community," he said, according to a recording of the call reviewed by The Wall Street Journal.

At Chico State, more than 90% of classes were already online, and the school had just about 750 students in residence halls. Another 8,000 to 10,000 are living near campus. The school didn't test students on arrival, and local health officials have led testing of potentially symptomatic individuals.

By Aug. 30, there were nearly 30 cases on campus, with additional exposures "that could have an exponential and devastating effect on campus," President Gayle Hutchinson wrote to the school community, announcing plans to reduce campus housing significantly.

The school isn't sending home students who are currently in quarantine. More than 135 will stay in university housing because of hardships, and the school has worked with about 100 others to relocate to off-campus housing nearby.

Butte County, where Chico State is located, had been handling contact tracing for those who tested positive on campus. If students do test positive after heading home, Dr. Hutchinson said, "My guess is it would become part of their county public health responsibility."

As of Thursday, Chico State had reported 102 cumulative cases since the beginning of August.

Juanita Mottley, Chico State's pandemic manager and director of the campus health center, said the school has warned students about exposing family members and urged them to self-monitor for symptoms. "There's nothing we can really do about people who may be asymptomatic and continually shedding the virus," she said.

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said on the "Today" show last week that sending students home after outbreaks is "the worst thing you could do." He said schools should isolate infected or potentially infected students on campus instead.

In the call with governors, White House coronavirus coordinator Deborah Birx warned that sending even asymptomatic students home could cause a repeat of what happened in parts of the South in June, when young people traveled to vacation spots and outbreaks soon developed.

CHRISTIAN MURDOCK/THE GAZETTE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A statue of Charles Leaming Tutt Jr. stands outside the library that bears his name at Colorado College

PG&E Sets California Blackouts to Cut Wildfire Risk

By Katherine Blunt

PG&E Corp. said it planned to cut power in parts of Northern California late Monday to reduce wildfire risks, a day after the state narrowly averted rolling blackouts to relieve strain on its electric grid during a heat wave.

The San Francisco-based utility, which serves 16 million people in Northern and Central California, said the outages would likely affect about 172,000 customers in 22 counties stretching from wine country to the Sierra foothills.

The exact number of people potentially affected is uncertain but would likely top more than 500,000, based on census data on people per household in California.

PG&E said the shut-offs would start about 9 p.m. Monday in some areas, with other areas seeing shut-offs starting Tuesday. The outages could last through Wednesday in all affected areas.

California utilities in recent years have resorted to public safety power shut-offs in which they cut off electricity to certain areas to reduce the risk of their power lines sparking wildfires when wind speeds pick up.

PG&E last year relied on such measures after its equipment sparked a series of deadly wildfires in 2017 and 2018. Last October, it pre-emptively cut power to more than two million Californians across 34 counties, some for days at a time. It is the only U.S. utility to have ever initiated a weather-related shut-off of such size and duration.

The Monday shut-offs were the first of their kind since California wildfire season began earlier this summer. PG&E has been working to reduce the scope of its safety-related outages by installing technology to limit their size and improving its ability to detect weather threats.

The shut-offs came a day after the California Independent System Operator, which operates much of the state's electric grid, anticipated a 4,000-megawatt power-supply shortage, driven in part by import constraints and wildfires affecting transmission lines in parts of the state. On Sunday, it called a Stage 2 emergency, urging utility customers to conserve power during the early evening hours but stopped short of calling for rotating outages.

An extreme heat wave in the southern half of the state forced residents to shelter inside and crank their air-conditioning units as temperatures topped 120 degrees in parts of the region, boosting electricity demand. As a result, the grid operator's power reserve margins wore thin at several points throughout the evening as solar generation began to decline.

Californians responded by conserving energy during the supply crunch and the grid operator called off the emergency Sunday evening.

The state grid operator called for rolling blackouts last month for the first time since 2001 as a heat wave swept California and other parts of the West.

President Courts Outrage to Control Agenda

CAPITAL JOURNAL
By Gerald F. Seib

MANDEL NGAN/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

President Trump speaking during a news conference at the White House on Monday.

Shortly after the 2016 election, Corey Lewandowski, President Trump's onetime campaign manager and current informal political adviser, appeared at a conference of campaign leaders at Harvard University and scolded journalists for misunderstanding the newly elected president.

"This is the problem with the media: You guys took everything Donald Trump said so literally," Mr. Lewandowski said. "The problem with that is the American people didn't, and they understood it."

Today, almost four years into Mr. Trump's presidency and two months before Americans decide whether to re-elect him, that quandary remains at the heart of any effort to analyze President Trump: When should one take what he says seriously, and when is he merely toying with the press in a bid to control the agenda, or with his foes to bait them into responding in irrational ways?

Two recent controversies underscore the question—and illustrate the way the president's approach complicates life for the campaign of his Democratic opponent, Joe Biden.

Case No. 1: Last week, the president told his supporters to, essentially, try to vote for him twice in this fall's election, first by mail and then by showing up at a polling place on Election Day. By doing that, he said they could test whether mail-in ballot systems are as impervious to fraud as proponents say, and also ensure that they cast a vote that counts one way or the other.

Was the president seriously suggesting his supporters undertake what could be considered an illegal act by attempting to cast two ballots? Or was he merely using a shocking statement to underscore his argument about the pitfalls of mail ballots? More darkly, was he sowing seeds of doubt about the very legitimacy of the election to come?

In any case, if one of Mr. Trump's goals was merely to ensure that his complaints about mail-in voting got prominent attention, he succeeded.

Case No. 2: In recent days, the president issued a memo ordering federal agencies to explore ways to cut federal funding to cities that, in his view, haven't done enough to control unrest in the streets. As it happens, the memo mentions only cities with Democratic mayors—Seattle, Portland, New York City and Washington, D.C.—and none in swing states where a threat to cut off federal funds could backfire on the president's re-election campaign.

Does the president seriously intend to try to cut off congressionally appropriated funds to major cities—a move of questionable legality and one certain to face immediate court challenges—or was he using a presidential memorandum to underscore a law-and-order message central to his re-election campaign?

In any case, the action left Mr. Trump's critics sputtering with rage. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo responded by saying the president "better have an army if he thinks he's going to walk down the street in New York." That response represents another characteristic of some of Mr. Trump's verbal broadsides: They often get his foes to respond with such outrage that they appear to be the irrational ones.

There are an abundance of other examples, but they all have one common characteristic: They allow the president to exert a lot of control over the national political agenda. Much as Mr. Trump knew during the 2016 campaign that reporters wouldn't ignore incendiary statements by a leading presidential candidate, he now knows reporters and his political foes can't simply ignore statements by the leader of the free world. And he uses the power to his advantage.

"They take him literally when really they should take him figuratively in some cases," Mr. Lewandowski says now in an interview. "It drives the media story. It doesn't always mean it's the best narrative, but he's driving the media story. This isn't new, by the way. This has been going on for six years."

Mr. Trump's supporters seem, in many cases, to be in on the deal. They often tell reporters they don't take what the president says literally, but understand he uses bombast and exaggeration to make a point they want to hear.

The problem with this style is that there are times of crisis or duress when a president needs the country to take him both literally and seriously. If the currency of presidential credibility is devalued, it isn't clear it can be revalued when it really matters, or that it can be used successfully to unite rather than divide.

All this represents a strategic problem for the Biden campaign. It has watched as Mr. Trump has used such tactics in recent weeks to move the agenda from the coronavirus to law and order and mail-in voting.

Can the Biden camp afford to simply ignore some of the things Mr. Trump says and stick to its own agenda? Mr. Trump's foes have struggled with that question for years, without finding a good answer.

Candidates Enter Key Stretch in Campaign

By Catherine Lucey And Ken Thomas

KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

Democratic nominee Joe Biden during a meeting with labor leaders in Lancaster, Pa., on Monday.

WASHINGTON—Entering a contentious stage in the presidential campaign, President Trump is seeking to focus voters on an economic rebound and public safety, while Democratic challenger Joe Biden is redoubling efforts to make the election a referendum on the president's performance on the coronavirus pandemic and the economy.

With the start of early voting in some states this month, Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden are fighting for control of a battleground map stretching across a dozen states against the backdrop of a pandemic that has upended traditional campaigning.

Mr. Biden threatens to make Mr. Trump, a Republican, the first president to lose re-election in nearly 30 years. A series of polls released since their late August nominating conventions show Mr. Biden maintaining a lead nationally and in key states, though Mr. Trump is within striking distance in some surveys.

Much could hinge on whether Mr. Biden can keep the focus on Mr. Trump's handling of the pandemic, as he argues that the president's response has cost American lives and damaged the economy.

Mr. Trump is countering with suggestions that life under a President Biden would lead to economic distress, as well as chaos in the streets because he is siding with protesters and insufficiently tough on lawbreaking. Mr. Trump is seeking to highlight recent economic gains, such as Friday's jobs report showing that the economy added 1.4 million jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 8.4%.

Their dueling messages are playing out before a fractured nation contending with a pandemic that has claimed more than 185,000 lives and a debate over racial justice that has spurred widespread peaceful protests and some violent clashes.

Mr. Biden marked Labor Day by meeting with union members in Lancaster, Pa., ahead of an event with the AFL-CIO in Harrisburg. Mr. Trump, meanwhile, staged a news conference from the North Portico of the White House, where he lambasted Mr. Biden in a preview of his lines of attack for the final weeks of the election.

Mr. Trump cast Mr. Biden as a "pawn" for China and attacked his intelligence and mental fitness, saying: "In prime time, he wasn't good. And now, it's not prime time." Mr. Biden, joined by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, said the president was "not made of the same stuff" as U.S. workers.

"He lives by a code of lies, greed and selfishness," Mr. Biden said.

Both running mates traveled to Wisconsin. Vice President Mike Pence delivered a message of law and order in La Crosse, Wis., while California Sen. Kamala Harris traveled to Milwaukee to meet with labor officials.

Pennsylvania, a crucial toss-up state, will draw both candidates later in the week for the 19th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks at a memorial in Shanksville to the Flight 93 passengers and crew who fought back against hijackers. Their planned appearances raise the possibility that the rivals could come face-to-face for the first time during the race.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden have traveled to key Electoral College states since their nominating conventions concluded last month, with both campaigns paying close attention to the industrial Midwest.

Mr. Biden held in-person events on four days last week, including one in Wisconsin, in his most extensive week of campaigning since the spring. He plans to make stops in Michigan and Pennsylvania next week. In addition to Pennsylvania, Mr. Trump will travel to Michigan, Florida and North Carolina this week.

Mr. Trump's campaign aides argue that the former vice president's newly active travel schedule is evidence of momentum they see in internal polling.

"It's better to be on offense than defense. Obviously, that's where we are," said campaign manager Bill Stepien during a recent briefing with reporters.

Mr. Biden's advisers contend that the race has remained stable and dispute that Mr. Trump has made significant gains since the Republican convention. They also point to polls showing Mr. Biden at 50% support in a number of battleground states, an indication of his staying power.

"We still believe that this is a referendum on Donald Trump. You know, he's desperately tried to change that and that really hasn't happened," said Mike Donilon, a top strategist for Mr. Biden.

Mr. Biden's campaign said during a recent briefing for reporters that it continues to maintain multiple paths to crossing the threshold of 270 electoral votes, pointing to polling advantages in several states, including Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Arizona.

Trump Backs Probe of Postmaster's Fundraising

By Rebecca Ballhaus

WASHINGTON—President Trump said he would support an investigation into Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's fundraising practices, after employees of his former business said they felt pressured by Mr. DeJoy to make campaign contributions for which he later reimbursed them.

Asked at a news conference Monday about the allegations in a report by the Washington Post, Mr. Trump said, "I don't know too much about it."

Pressed by a reporter on whether he would support an investigation, he said, "Sure, sure. Let the investigations go, but he's a very respected man." If the investigation proved Mr. DeJoy committed a crime, the president said he would support his dismissal.

The Washington Post on Saturday reported that five employees of Mr. DeJoy's former business said they had been urged by Mr. DeJoy or his aides to make campaign donations or attend fundraisers he was hosting. Some of them said Mr. DeJoy subsequently arranged bonus payments to those employees, essentially reimbursing them for all or part of their donations.

Federal election laws ban the practice of reimbursing employees for donations to evade limits on campaign contributions, known as a straw-donor scheme.

A spokesman for Mr. DeJoy said Sunday that Mr. DeJoy was never notified by the employees that they might have felt pressured, and that Mr. DeJoy believes all campaign fundraising laws and regulations should be followed.

Mr. DeJoy, a Trump donor and GOP fundraiser, was named to lead the U.S. Postal Service this spring by the Postal Service Board of Governors, whose members were appointed by the president.

Democratic lawmakers have accused him of working with Mr. Trump to interfere in the November election, in which a historic number of voters are expected to cast ballots by mail due to the coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Trump has criticized efforts to expand mail-in voting. Mr. DeJoy has rejected the notion he is trying to hurt the Postal Service.

Funding Expiration, Aid Talks Await Lawmakers

By Kristina Peterson And Natalie Andrews

WASHINGTON—Lawmakers returning to Washington after their late-summer break are hoping to revive long-stalled negotiations over additional coronavirus relief with less than two months until the election.

But if they can't reach an agreement on Covid-19 aid in coming weeks, they at least plan to avoid a government shutdown.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin agreed last week to pursue a short-term spending bill without any controversial policy measures. The government's funding expires at 12:01 a.m. on Oct. 1.

"The speaker and I have agreed, we don't want to see a government shutdown. So we've agreed that we are going to do a clean CR," Mr. Mnuchin said on Fox News Sunday, referring to a continuing resolution, or short-term spending bill. He said they would do this separately from the Covid-19 aid negotiations.

That agreement means that bogged-down negotiations over another relief package likely won't derail routine government funding and spark a shutdown. However, if lawmakers can reach an agreement with the administration over coronavirus aid, that could still get attached to the spending bill, aides said.

Both congressional leaders and White House officials have sounded increasingly pessimistic notes about the chances of a relief deal coming together in the weeks before the election, when mounting political pressure makes it hardest to compromise. Talks between the White House and Democrats broke down last month.

Negotiations over another relief package likely won't spark a shutdown.

Senate Republicans, who have urged caution on the size of the next package, are discussing whether to bring forward this week a "skinny" package of aid that would cost less than their previous $1 trillion proposal.

Democratic leaders, meanwhile, have said GOP proposals have fallen short of what is needed to respond to the coronavirus pandemic's health and economic toll.

"The Republicans are now moving even further in the wrong direction," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.) wrote in a letter to Senate Democrats last week. "Republicans may call their proposal 'skinny,' but it would be more appropriate to call it 'emaciated.'"

Democrats and Republicans have clashed over what level to restore the weekly $600 in federal unemployment benefits that expired in late July; how much aid should go to state and local governments; and how money for schools should be allotted; among other issues.

The appetite for a short-term spending bill, meanwhile, reflects the widespread desire among both Democrats and Republicans to avoid even the threat of a government shutdown weeks away from an election.

Staff-level talks over the spending bill, which largely extends funding at its current levels, began Friday. Some Democrats are pondering extending it until early 2021, but Republicans want to see it run out in mid-December, aides said.

House Democrats passed a $3.5 trillion package in May, but Mrs. Pelosi has said they would be willing to compromise around a $2.2 trillion bill. Mr. Mnuchin last week said Republicans could support legislation that cost somewhere around $1.5 trillion.

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How Lab Companies Tackled Surge in Tests

By Scott Patterson And John Simons

ELMWOOD PARK, N.J.—In early July, as coronavirus surged across the U.S., one of the nation's biggest laboratories involved in testing for Covid-19 made a wrenching decision: It would stop accepting new tests for the disease.

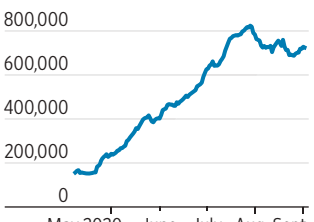
The testing facilities of **BioReference Laboratories** Inc. were overwhelmed, leading to a crippling backlog of thousands of patient samples. To catch up, the New Jersey-based company decided to halt new tests for several days.

"Our backlog was so significant," said BioReference Executive Chairman Jon Cohen. The plan worked, he says, even though he says his company "took a lot of heat for the pause." Afterward, average turnaround time for tests at BioReference fell to about two to three days from roughly a week, Mr. Cohen said.

That improved performance, and increasing testing capacity, allowed BioReference to expand its testing services to the National Basketball Association, the National Football League and Major League Soccer, as well as pharmacies such as CVS Health Corp.

Not every lab company felt it could make that trade-off, as an avalanche of test samples poured into labs in late June and July. The two biggest Covid-19 testing laboratories in the U.S., Quest Diagnostics and Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings, kept taking in tests despite increasing backlogs that pushed turnaround times for results to a week or more as cases ballooned after dozens of states reopened their economies.

Daily Covid-19 tests in U.S., seven-day moving average



Source: COVID Tracking Project

BioReference's move to stop taking in new tests—and its rivals' decision to keep accepting them—highlights a confounding dilemma the nation's biggest labs faced this summer as millions of Americans got sick, overwhelming testing capacity. While Quest and LabCorp raced to expand, they were unable to keep up with what became a tidal wave of tests flooding their facilities.

It is a dilemma labs could face again in the fall and winter if another wave of coronavirus hits the U.S., experts say.

Quest and LabCorp were processing more than 200,000 tests a day in early July, about one-third of all tests across the U.S., according to the Covid Tracking Project. BioReference was doing about 40,000 tests. Much of the rest was done at the local level, either with a quicker, point-of-care test that can run in urgent-care clinics, doctor's offices and nursing homes, or through a highly complex laboratory in a nearby location.

LabCorp weighed pausing but instead focused on expanding capacity "as fast as possible," according to Brian Caveney, president of the company's diagnostics division. Quest also didn't pause.

"If a customer comes to you and has a patient who needs testing, and is a patient in need, we'll provide the test," said Quest spokeswoman Wendy Bost. "Where else are they going to go?"

By August, Quest and LabCorp said they had worked through their backlogs, reducing average turnaround times to a day or two.

While the expansion of testing in the U.S. has been by many accounts an achievement, it hasn't been enough to track and contain the virus. Labs have competed for limited supplies of plastics and chemicals used to run tests, struggled to understand how federal supplies were allocated and scrambled to come up with workarounds.

Like other labs, BioReference had to build its Covid-19 testing program from scratch. Early on, it decided to use multiple testing platforms to hedge against supply-chain bottlenecks. If one platform was missing an important ingredient, the company would be able to continue testing on its remaining platforms—as long as they didn't encounter supply shortages.

BioReference committed to test workers at nursing homes throughout New York state. By late spring, the company had conducted about a quarter of a million tests in New York's nursing homes. But dedicating resources to nursing homes pushed delays for other customers to seven days, says Mr. Cohen.

By early July, the company was getting thousands more tests a day than it could handle. That was when it decided to pause taking in new tests. Since then, turnaround times at the company have been about two to three days, Mr. Cohen said.

BRYAN ANSELM FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Technicians at BioReference Laboratories in Elmwood Park, N.J., in August.

New Cases Decline; Officials Urge Care

New coronavirus cases in the U.S. fell to their lowest level since June 22 as the Labor Day holiday weekend began to wind down, while governors in some states continued to urge people to remain vigilant to avoid the jumps in transmission that followed some previous holidays.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom said on Twitter Sunday that the state's hospitalization rates are down, but warned one weekend could change that. "Seriously—don't go to a big party. Wear a mask. BE SMART. I know we're tired of #COVID19 but literal lives are at stake," he wrote.

Many holiday-weekend events, including Labor Day parades across the country, have been scrapped due to the pandemic and concerns about crowding.

The U.S. reported more than 31,000 cases for Sunday, down from 44,000 on Saturday, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The seven-day moving average for new daily cases in the U.S. fell to the lowest level since June 29, according to data collected by Johns Hopkins and analyzed by The Wall Street Journal. The U.S. death toll on Monday moved above 189,000, Johns Hopkins reported.

Meanwhile, India became the first country in the world to record more than 90,000 new coronavirus cases in a single day. India has now overtaken Brazil as the country with the second-highest number of total confirmed cases, behind only the U.S., according to Johns Hopkins.

—David Hall and Jon Kamp

Routines Get Reboot For Fall

Continued from Page One

new ways to energize employees—all with an eye toward making things work in the long term.

Some states or cities have partially reopened, and people have continued to fill parks and outdoor events. Restaurants have relocated dining rooms to sidewalks and streets. Many people have figured out how to get haircuts.

Yet office buildings largely remain empty, many schools and colleges are remote teaching and cases are climbing in some places. The Big Ten and Pac-12 conferences postponed their college football seasons. The Austin City Limits Music Festival in Texas and the Art Basel in Miami Beach art fair in Florida were called off. Broadway shows, movie premieres and fall TV series were suspended.

Workers returning to company offices likely will find them sparsely occupied and reconfigured with work stations spaced apart and floor markings directing foot traffic.

Confirmed cases of Covid-19 top 6.2 million in the U.S. Most people have recovered, and more than 189,000 people have died, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The seven-day average of daily new cases recently leveled off at about 40,000.

At commercial real estate firm JLL's Florida offices, "Labor Day has always been a rejuvenation of our culture," said Tim Rivers, the company's Florida market director based in Tampa. It is a time when staffing returns to full force, clients re-engage and the industry prepares to enter its often busiest quarter.

But this year, only about 25% of the company's employees in the state have returned to JLL's eight Florida offices. To try to recreate the cohesion that stems from office interactions, Mr. Rivers is scheduling regular one-on-one chats with staffers and encouraging more members of business teams to communicate with clients.

He also is pressing, when possible, to get younger employees into the office for training since they are missing out on learning by observing senior staffers. "Productivity comes when people know they're part of something," said Mr. Rivers, 55.

In San Francisco, Josh Golomb is grappling with another challenge: how to build camaraderie among new workers at telehealth company Hazel Health Inc. as it pursues plans to continue expanding this fall. The company expects to add as many as 20 employees to the current staff of 50 in the next three months, with most working from home.

"How do you build that team when you're not in an office?" said Mr. Golomb, the 46-year-old chief executive of the company, which creates virtual medical clinics for schools. "We have to get more creative in that."

He can draw on tactics Hazel tried out during an annual meeting that took place virtually over two weeks in July. To encourage interaction, Mr. Golomb said, the company complemented all-staff sessions with small-group gatherings, covering the tab for participants to order food at home to simulate the experience of table-side conversations. At the start of each session, a song chosen by the presenter would play and a DJ would offer an introduction, to replicate the energy of a live event and allow each speaker to show some personality.

Matthew Kinsella, managing director at venture capital firm Maverick Ventures in San Francisco, is adapting the way he evaluates companies for potential investments. Trips to visit startups and spend hours over meals and drinks to size up entrepreneurs are no longer feasible.

"A big part is getting to know that person, understanding what makes them tick," said Mr. Kinsella, 37. "I've had to shift tacks to do that without meeting in person."

Now he schedules hours of Zoom video meetings to get to know founders and employees and take virtual tours of manufacturing facilities or labs. Companies increasingly send "sizzle reels"—snappy, stylized videos providing an overview of their products or services. With business contacts closer to home, he plans to do more walking meetings in the Presidio park, chatting six feet apart, to get a break from the computer screen.

Jay Paxton, a real-estate attorney in Houston, said some innovations adopted in the spring and summer as a response to the pandemic are likely to become more prevalent. Virtual court hearings have eliminated drive time and cut down on courthouse waits.

Mr. Paxton now conducts seminars online for real-estate brokers, on issues like foreclosures, that he used to do in person. The audience is significantly bigger—though now it is harder to tell if they are laughing at his jokes.

"The technology has changed the way we do things," said Mr. Paxton, 68. "For personal and family interaction, it's not as satisfying...For business, it works well."

Small-business owners are retooling for different fall and adapting to changing tastes.

Scott Studenberg, a 37-year-old fashion designer in Los Angeles, won't be heading to New York Fashion Week this month. About 80% of his orders were canceled after the pandemic hit, forcing him to let go of five of his six workers and reorient his brand, Baja East, to online sales.

Mr. Studenberg's coming collection will include 10 to 15 looks that are heavy on sweatsuits and other quarantine-friendly leisure wear—much fewer than the 50 looks he showed in his previous one. Rather than presenting the collection in a runway show, he will create an online version, filming videos of the looks and explaining each one.

"We can't just limp along," says Sonia Dillane, a software engineer in Seattle.

"I'll fly to everyone virtually," Mr. Studenberg said.

Ed Choi and Ron Shawler, co-owners of the Los Angeles street wear shop and art gallery Ewkuks, are producing a clothing line for back-to-school season that will feature more muted colors to match the somber mood.

They had to cancel virtually all of the monthly art shows they had planned for fall featuring graffiti artists—usually festive Saturday-night events with drinks that draw crowds. Now they are trying to put together shows similar to one they did in July, held during the day, without alcohol and with a limited number of people in the store.

They are considering temporarily shutting down the store and going fully online for a while, Mr. Choi said. Or they might focus more on their video work creating art tutorials and filming street artists, including at a mural festival later this month in Kansas City, Mo.

In Amherst, Mass., this is normally a bustling time at the 106-year-old A.J. Hastings college gear and office supply store, as students start the fall semester at three area universities. But foot traffic is down by at least half because of restrictions on the numbers of students on campus and reticence over in-person shopping, said Sharon Povinelli, co-owner of the store with her wife, Mary Louise Broll.

During the five months A.J. Hastings didn't allow customers inside, the couple renovated the space to make it more conducive to social distancing. They got rid of a card rack, a magazine display, a counter and a soft-drink refrigerator. They widened aisles and reconfigured merchandise. They separated two checkout registers so customers waiting to pay wouldn't come in contact.

Since reopening to in-person shopping last month, the feedback has been encouraging, said Ms. Povinelli, 53. "It's a better shopping experience," she said. "When people come in, they're like, 'Whoa.' They feel safe."

For many people, the recent weeks have forced decisions and adjustments that could be in place for several more months or longer.

Eve Bloomgarden, a 39-year-old endocrinologist who lives with her husband and two children in the Chicago suburb of Northbrook, Ill., saw patients only through telemedicine for the first several months of the pandemic. Ensconced in her children's playroom, she used four sets of headphones and several chargers and monitors, with toys arrayed in the background.

Now, Dr. Bloomgarden is taking appointments at her office at Northwestern Memorial Hospital about once a week. She answers screening questions on an app before entering, waits for the green light to clear her, then dons a mask and goggles.

Patients often seem anxious, Dr. Bloomgarden said, and are as likely to ask about Covid-19 as hormone imbalances.

"There is a lot of stress going into this fall"—for her patients, and for her, she said. "There's no outlet, no gym, no vacation. You can't hang out with friends." Her family's new escape: the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Lucien Tolbert, a 44-year-old human resources consultant in New Orleans, started a new job at an oil refinery in June, just as new coronavirus cases in Louisiana began climbing again. Except for three or four times he has physically seen colleagues, his entire experience at the company has been virtual.

It has been tough, given how sociable he is and the need to learn a new business, Mr. Tolbert said. He sets up regular video meetings and phone calls with colleagues and his supervisor, peppering them with questions. He prays each morning for strength and discipline, steeling himself for months more of remote work. His main outlet for socializing is on Sundays at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, where he is a deacon.

"I'm typically a positive person," Mr. Tolbert said. "But it's just hard to see an immediate end to the pandemic."

JESSICA PONS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

JOVELLE TAMAYO FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

TAYLOR GLASCOCK FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Top left, Fashion designer Scott Studenberg takes phone meetings on the patio of his Los Angeles home; top right, Sonia and Kevin Dillane, software development engineers at home in Seattle; bottom, Dr. Eve Bloomgarden with her daughter in Northbrook, Ill.

FBI Sweep Nabs Chinese Researchers

By Kate O'Keeffe And Aruna Viswanatha

A search by U.S. authorities for Chinese researchers with ties to China's military is leading to intensifying cat-and-mouse tactics involving what prosecutors say are foiled escapes, evidence tossed into a dumpster and a chase through an airport.

FBI agents have questioned dozens of researchers about their work and military affiliations. In recent weeks, the widening operation has triggered efforts by some suspects to evade authorities and led to the arrest of at least two researchers whose work is allegedly tied to China's military development, according to court filings by prosecutors.

In one case, a researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles studying artificial intelligence is accused by federal prosecutors of destroying evidence sought by the FBI in an investigation into potential technology theft. The researcher, Guan Lei, threw a damaged computer hard drive in a dumpster days after he was stopped from leaving Los Angeles International Airport, prosecutors allege.

In another, a scientist researching fluid dynamics at the University of Virginia is charged with stealing proprietary software code under development for two decades by his adviser, who received U.S. Navy funding. The adviser told investigators that Hu Haizhou, whom U.S. authorities prevented from boarding a flight in Chicago last month, hadn't informed him he planned to return to China, prosecutors allege in filings in his case.

Messrs. Guan and Hu, arrested separately in late August, are in custody and have yet to enter pleas. A lawyer for Mr. Hu said that in his experience trade secrets charges are "typically overstated." Mr. Guan's lawyer didn't respond to a request for comment. In an affidavit Mr. Guan filed in a related proceeding, he said he spoke with the FBI because he "had nothing to hide" and he believes he was targeted because of the "political climate between China and the U.S."

Mr. Guan's fiancée, Yang Zhihui, a Chinese national studying computer science at the University of California, Irvine, was arrested running through the Los Angeles airport to board a flight to China on Aug. 31, even though her lawyer had agreed she would surrender for detention as a witness against Mr. Guan, prosecutors said. Her lawyer said Ms. Yang is a law-abiding student.

A search by U.S. authorities leads to intensifying cat-and-mouse tactics.

The FBI sweep launched in June factored into the U.S. decision to close China's consulate in Houston, after authorities suspected that Chinese diplomats were assisting some of the scholars with evading investigators. On July 21, when the State Department ordered the consulate closed, it also told the Chinese ambassador to get the remaining military researchers out of the country, The Wall Street Journal reported.

China's Foreign Ministry has said its diplomats "have never engaged in activities incompatible with their status," and Beijing has denied U.S. accusations of intellectual-property theft, characterizing them as political. The Chinese Embassy didn't respond to a request for comment on the latest cases.

At least four cases the Justice Department filed in the weeks leading to the consulate closure accuse researchers of visa fraud. Two have pleaded not guilty while two have yet to enter pleas.

The latest cases appear to involve research with military applications that China's People's Liberation Army is trying to develop.

Mr. Guan's research centers on machine learning, an artificial intelligence field. One of his advisers at China's National University of Defense Technology is a lieutenant general and a leading figure in the PLA's supercomputer program, according to an FBI affidavit filed with his criminal complaint.

Mr. Hu, who works for a military-funded lab at Beihang University in Beijing, was researching underwater robotics, according to an FBI affidavit. The code prosecutors accuse him of stealing was developed by his UVA adviser, who runs a collaborative program with other schools funded by the Office of Naval Research.

In an interview with Customs and Border Protection officers at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on Aug. 25, Mr. Hu admitted he had code on his laptop that his adviser would be upset to learn he had, the affidavit said. Beihang University didn't respond to a request for comment.

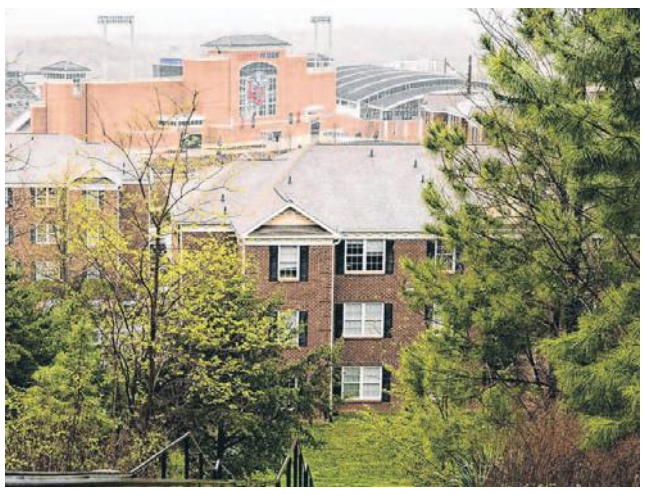
The professor, who wasn't identified in court filings, told the FBI he had repeatedly denied Mr. Hu's requests to access his code and didn't know how he obtained it, according to the affidavit. He told authorities Mr. Hu "had left UVA to return to China without contacting him to bid him farewell," the filing said.

A university spokesman said the school is cooperating with law enforcement. The U.S. Office of Naval Research didn't respond to a request for comment.

At UCLA, Mr. Guan was working in the math department and studied "an optimization algorithm and its application in machine learning," the criminal complaint said. A UCLA spokesman said the university is cooperating with the investigation.

Liberty University Contemplates Future Without Falwell

By Ian Lovett



FROM LEFT: JONATHAN DRAKE/REUTERS; AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Jerry Falwell Jr. resigned as president of Liberty University in Virginia in August amid several scandals. He says he did nothing wrong.

In Jerry Falwell Jr.'s last years as president of Liberty University, employees said they saw frequent signs that he wasn't living by the values espoused by America's largest evangelical Christian college, where students and faculty can be disciplined for drinking, even off campus, and all sexual content is banned.

Former school administrators said staff and donors complained that he showed up to campus appearing drunk or smelling of alcohol. He told another Christian leader on Twitter to "grow a pair." One former staffer recounted overhearing him say a tea at a campus cafe reminded him of a whiskey he had tried. Once, at a Liberty football game, he accidentally sent a risqué photo of his wife to a number of administrators, including his son, according to people who witnessed it.

Mr. Falwell denied coming to campus drunk and noted that drinking wasn't banned for staff. He said he never drank tea, and denied sending any inappropriate text message.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Falwell resigned amid a series of scandals, including allegations, which he denied, that he for years watched his wife have sex with another man. Now that he is gone, Liberty students and alumni are asking how Mr. Falwell was allowed to operate with impunity for so long and demanding changes to the board of trustees and the administration, which they say failed to hold him accountable.

"There was a culture of fear—I felt that very strongly," said Caitlin Elliott, an alumna who worked as director of the campus writing center until August, when she left because of her dislike of the campus culture. "He created this environment where he kind of had immunity to do whatever he wanted."

Dustin Wahl, one of the founders of Save71, an alumni group pushing for change at Liberty, said the board had failed to protect the school's reputation, and shouldn't be involved in picking the next president. "The board is not capable of protecting Liberty or leading it in a new direction," he said.

The board of trustees said in a statement last week that it had hired what it described as a forensic firm to investigate "all facets of Liberty University operations" during Mr. Falwell's tenure as president.

"Some may say that all the signs were there for a long time before last week," the board added in its statement, "but all the signs were not there until the start of last week."

A spokesman for Liberty declined to comment on criticism of the board. Multiple board members declined to comment or didn't respond to inquiries.

Mr. Falwell, in recent interviews with The Wall Street Journal, said he had no regrets about his time at Liberty and had done nothing wrong. "I built it from zero to four billion," he said of the school's financial position. "I worked my butt off. I went through all kinds of stress."

Criticism from outside the school became common in recent years, particularly as Mr. Falwell became an outspoken advocate for President Trump. He often feuded with other Christian leaders who were less enthusiastic about the president.

On Liberty's campus, however, dissent was virtually nonexistent. One of the former employees said that a top administrator advised him to deal with Mr. Falwell by always agreeing, even about matters as seemingly trivial as the color of the wall.

Unlike at most universities, Liberty faculty members don't have tenure that offers protections from being fired, except those who teach at the law school.

Some of the former administrators, meanwhile, said Mr. Falwell warned them not to take their concerns about the school to the trustees. One of those people said that, several years ago, Mr. Falwell told 40 people at an executive meeting that they weren't allowed to talk to the board at all.

"There were a lot of people who probably knew" that Mr. Falwell was behaving in ways that weren't allowed on campus, one former administrator said. "There had been smoke for years. But if you said something, you were gone."

Mr. Falwell disputed employees' characterization of his leadership style. "We never let go of a faculty member for criticizing me," he said. He added that he told employees not to speak to the board to comply with accreditation rules. Janea Johnson, a spokeswoman for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which accredits Liberty, said each institution had its own bylaws, but "nothing specifically in our standards that says faculty and board members can't communicate."

Like most university presidents, Mr. Falwell reported to the board of trustees. But the board exercised little oversight, according to multiple former officials who attended board meetings.

Twice a year, the members would gather at the Lynchburg, Va., campus at around 9 a.m., according to former officials who attended meetings. They said Mr. Falwell and other Liberty administrators would make presentations and, once a year, present a budget, after which there was little time for questions and almost no deliberation. By around noon, lunch was served and some members were heading out to catch flights home.

"Until a few days ago, the M.O. was basically to give Jerry free rein and full authority to run the school and do as he pleases," said one of the former officials, who attended board meetings.

Tech Selloff Unnerves Investors

Continued from Page One

breaks that have hobbled the global economy.

"They've run up so much, and they're overextended," said Leslie Thompson, managing principal at Spectrum Management Group in Indianapolis, which manages about $700 million. She has been cutting her investments in tech stocks such as Apple and chip maker Nvidia Corp. recently. The speed of the climb "was just really ridiculous," she said.

The ascent by these stocks buoyed markets in months of economic uncertainty: Apple, Facebook and Amazon each rose 85% or more from March 23, when markets bottomed following the Federal Reserve's announcement that it planned extensive support for the economy, to Sept. 2.

Now, though Friday's selloff was much milder than Thursday's, some investors are watching for signs that the tech trade is starting to unwind. It is a process that some fear could exert a heavy weight on markets given the firms' size and popularity with traders, and because many investors have struggled to rationalize the scale of the markets' gains at a time of economic dislocation and fractious politics.

The five biggest internet companies—Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, Google parent Alphabet and Facebook—made up 26% of the S&P 500 at the end of August, up from 14% for the five biggest stocks in the index three years ago.

After becoming the first U.S. public company to reach $2 trillion in market value last month, Apple slid 8% on Thursday, losing $180 billion in a historic slide. In the last two sessions of last week, Amazon, Microsoft, Alphabet and Facebook each fell at least 6.5%.

On Thursday, the five biggest tech firms and Netflix Inc. lost nearly $500 billion in combined market value.

"Momentum is nice on the way up, but it's painful on the way down," said Gene Goldman, chief investment officer at Cetera Investment Management. He has been lowering investments in tech while increasing positions in beaten-down value sectors that appear cheap like the financial and industrial groups.

Some traders said the proliferation of investments tied to momentum—the practice of buying assets on the expectation their current price trend will continue—and volatility means more of the gains could be in jeopardy.

Billions of dollars have flowed into tech exchange-traded funds like the Invesco QQQ Trust in recent weeks, while some gauges of investor sentiment have signaled investor optimism mounting. To some, that indicated the time might be ripe for a pullback.

At the same time, market sentiment isn't in crazily bullish territory the way it was 20 years ago before the Nasdaq crash. Flows into equity funds broadly have been muted, while tens of billions of dollars have flowed into bond funds and funds tracking gold in recent months.

Investors have also cited surging activity in options markets by companies such as SoftBank Group Corp. and individual investors using apps like Robinhood as factors that could tend to accentuate market moves in both directions. Analysts are concerned that some of these traders using borrowed money might be forced to sell unrelated assets to cover their losses, a trend that can amplify market downturns. The market might be vulnerable to a pullback in part because some economic data show a slowdown in the recovery.

"It's likely to happen quickly," said Lauren Goodwin, a multiasset portfolio strategist and economist at New York Life Investments, which holds a smaller position in U.S. stocks than the benchmark it tracks. "The recovery is precarious, and investors know it."

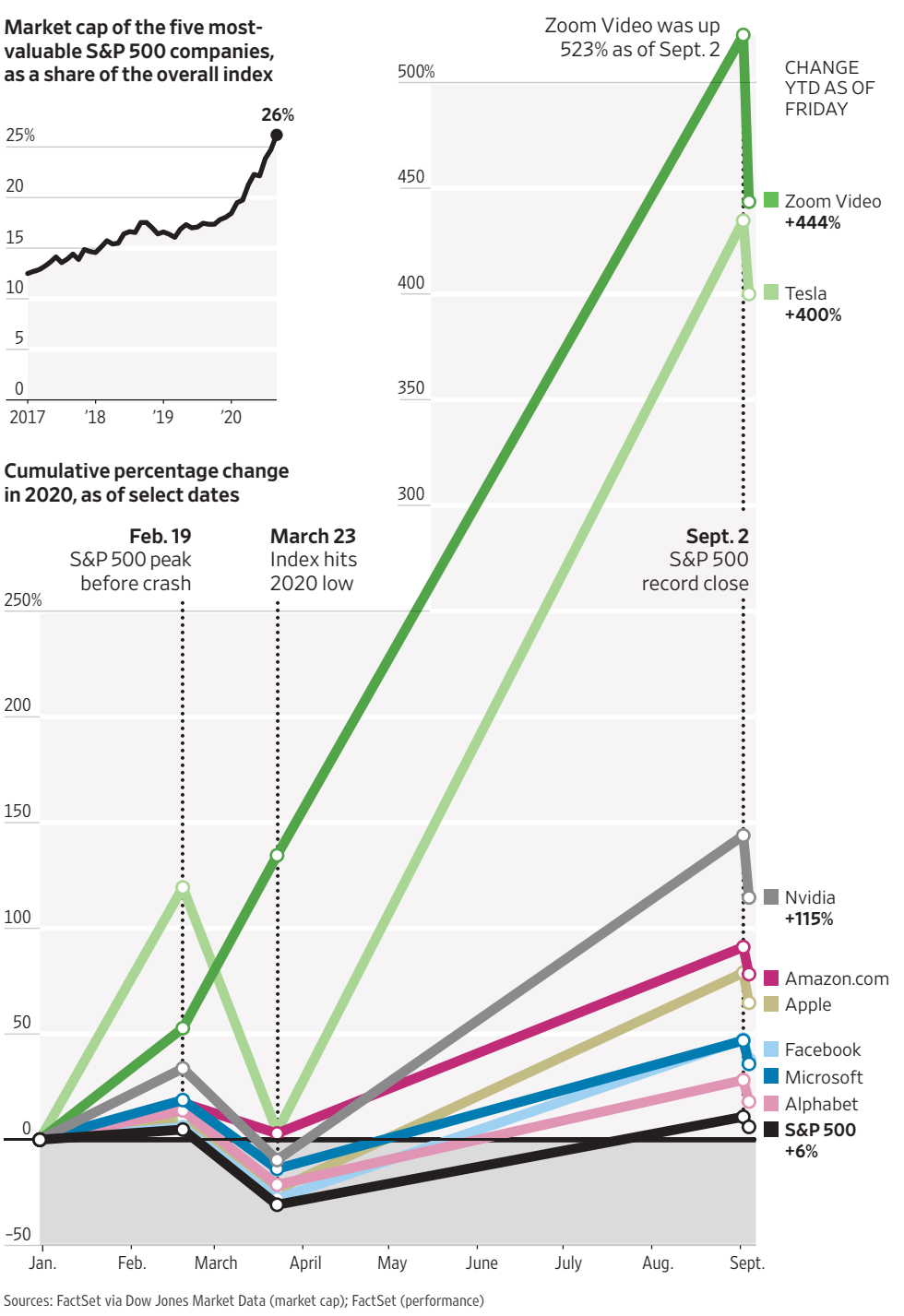
The whipsaw action has been evident beyond the biggest internet firms. One of the fastest-climbing stocks in recent months, Tesla Inc., is down 16% in September—a drop that began just after the electric-car maker on Aug. 31 passed Visa Inc. to become the seventh-largest U.S. public company, with a market value near $465 billion.

Other heavily traded tech firms such as Zoom Video Communications Inc. and Slack Technologies Inc. have also fallen. The pullback highlights the disconnect between share prices and earnings for some companies, many investors said.

"A lot of the fundamental moves are real, but the stock prices have moved up more than the fundamental changes," said Michael Lippert, who manages the Baron Capital Opportunity Fund that counts Microsoft, Alphabet and Amazon.com among its largest holdings.

Market cap of the five most-valuable S&P 500 companies, as a share of the overall index

Cumulative percentage change in 2020, as of select dates



Sources: FactSet via Dow Jones Market Data (market cap); FactSet (performance)

WORLD NEWS

Poisoned Putin Critic Comes Out of Coma

Merkel considers sanctions on Russia, including scrapping pipeline, over attack

BERLIN—Germany signaled it is prepared to reconsider its Nord Stream 2 gas-pipeline project with Russia in light of the poisoning of Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, who was roused from an induced coma on Monday.

*By **Bojan Pancevski** in Berlin and **Thomas Grove** in Moscow*

HAYOUNG JEON/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been treated at a Berlin hospital since his poisoning.

Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has been a champion of the pipeline project, couldn't rule out including Nord Stream 2 in possible sanctions against Russia should Moscow fail to investigate Mr. Navalny's poisoning, a spokesman for the German leader said.

Germany's reaction would depend on Russia's actions in the coming days, the spokesman said.

Berlin's Charité hospital said Mr. Navalny had been awakened from a coma and was responsive. German scientists determined last week that the opposition figure had been poisoned with Novichok, a Soviet-era military-grade nerve agent.

Mr. Navalny, who was flown to Berlin for treatment with the help of the German government on Aug. 22, could still suffer long-term damage, the hospital said. He is now being weaned off mechanical ventilation as his condition improves, according to the clinic.

The case brought a new low in relations between Berlin and Moscow, which have rapidly deteriorated since Russia's invasion and partial annexation of Ukraine in 2014.

After Mr. Navalny, a critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Berlin, and with Russia showing little interest in investigating the case, members of Ms. Merkel's cabinet including Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and several lawmakers on both sides of the aisle said the Nord Stream 2 project should be reconsidered or abandoned.

Until Monday, Ms. Merkel had rejected any such suggestion. On Aug. 28, she said the issue of Mr. Navalny's poisoning should be decoupled from economic cooperation with Russia. "Our opinion is that it must be finished....It's a project by economic actors from Russia and Europe," she told a news conference when asked if work on Nord Stream 2 should be halted.

Nord Stream 2, running alongside an older pipeline on the same route, is set to double Moscow's gas exports to Germany. The project is nearing completion but is currently suffering delays because of U.S. sanctions imposed in December. The pipeline is also controversial in Europe, which has tried to reduce its dependence on Russian gas.

The poisoning of Mr. Navalny has made further U.S. sanctions, possibly in cooperation with the EU, more likely, said Benjamin L. Schmitt, Harvard postdoctoral fellow and former European energy-security adviser at the State Department.

"Especially in light of the Navalny poisoning by Novichok, it's increasingly likely that the U.S. and EU may well pass joint sanctions to make sure that the pipeline is never completed," Mr. Schmitt said.

The Kremlin has denied any responsibility in Mr. Navalny's poisoning and has cast doubt on German doctors' conclusion that he was poisoned at all, referring to Russian doctors' initial assessment that the opposition politician was suffering from some metabolic imbalance, such as low blood sugar.

Mr. Navalny, who fell critically ill while on board a domestic commercial flight in Russia, was briefly treated at a local hospital before being transferred to Germany at the request of his family after Ms. Merkel suggested the move.

He underwent tests at Berlin's Charité hospital, which sent medical samples to clinics around the world. A specialist military laboratory in Germany confirmed Aug. 24 that he had been poisoned with Novichok, a nerve agent that was developed in the Soviet Union and is now banned.

Russian officials have started a preliminary probe into Mr. Navalny's illness but haven't opened a full-fledged investigation. Mr. Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, said she requested an investigation when Mr. Navalny fell ill in late August.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that Moscow was pleased with Germany's decision to send information on Mr. Navalny's condition and the course of his recovery. He also said he saw no risk to Germany blocking the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, calling proposals for Germany to rethink its cooperation with Moscow absurd.

"Keeping in mind the importance of this situation, we believe the information [on Mr. Navalny] will be handed over in the coming days," Mr. Peskov said. "We're waiting for it very expectantly."

Mr. Peskov said an investigation could be started if Moscow receives information on what exact substance German doctors concluded had poisoned Mr. Navalny.

FROM TOP: SERGEI BOBYLEV/TASS/ZUMA PRESS; SERGEI GAPON/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Thousands marched in Minsk on Sunday as authorities cracked down on weeks of protests against authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko,

Belarus Opposition Leader Seized

By Georgi Kantchev

A Belarus opposition leader has been abducted, an opposition council said, raising fears that government authorities are stepping up efforts to crack down on the protest movement after nearly a month of rallies against the disputed election of longtime leader Alexander Lukashenko.

The opposition's Coordination Council said the leader, Maria Kalesnikava, and two other members of the panel were kidnapped by unknown people in the center of Minsk. Earlier, the independent Belarusian Tut.by news website cited a witness saying masked men had bundled Ms. Kalesnikava into a minibus and driven her off early Monday.

The Belarusian Interior Ministry said it had no information on the alleged detentions of opposition members, Russia's Interfax news agency reported. The ministry didn't respond to a request for comment.

Maria Kalesnikava is said to have disappeared in Minsk on Monday.

The reports drew condemnation from the European Union. "Arbitrary arrests and kidnappings on political grounds in Belarus, including this morning's brutal actions against Andrei Yahorau, Irina Sukhiy & Maria Kalesnikova, are unacceptable," EU foreign-policy chief Josep Borrell said in a tweet, using an alternate spelling of the opposition leader's name. "State authorities must stop intimidating citizens & violating their own laws and int. obligations."

Ms. Kalesnikava has been instrumental in leading the monthslong protests, which have mushroomed into the biggest challenge to Mr. Lukashenko's 26-year reign over the former Soviet state, a close Russian ally.

On Sunday, tens of thousands of people, many draped in the red-and-white flag of the opposition, marched in Minsk, demanding Mr. Lukashenko step down. Security forces detained 633 protesters, Belarusian authorities said.

Roughly 7,000 people were detained for protesting after the election, and nearly all were released. Human-rights researchers said they have documented more than 500 cases of people being beaten and tortured while detained by security forces or at detention centers.

Since then, authorities have employed less violent methods but a more targeted approach, by detaining or harassing leading opposition members.

"Instead of talking to the people of #Belarus, the outgoing leadership is trying cynically eliminate one by one," Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius tweeted Monday about what he called the kidnapping of Ms. Kalesnikava. "Stalinist NKVD methods are being applied in 21st century's Europe," he said, referring to the Soviet security agency.

Saudi Court Cuts Sentences for Khashoggi Killers

By Stephen Kalin

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—A Saudi court reduced the death sentences of five men convicted in the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi to 20-year prison terms and handed shorter sentences to three other nationals, in a case that drove a wedge between Saudi Arabia's heir-apparent and the West.

The public prosecutor declared the case closed nearly two years after Mr. Khashoggi was killed at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, undermining Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's reputation among some of Saudi Arabia's most important international partners and imperiling his economic-overhaul program, despite his continued support from President Trump.

Those convicted had been expected to avoid execution after Mr. Khashoggi's eldest son said in May his family had forgiven the killers, but the decision is unlikely to silence calls for accountability, including from influential members of Congress who have mulled a broad re-evaluation of the decades-old U.S.-Saudi alliance.

Prince Mohammed, the kingdom's day-to-day ruler, has struggled to repair his battered image ahead of the summit of G-20 leaders, which Saudi Arabia is set to host in November. He hasn't returned to the U.S. since the killing, following whirlwind visits to showcase his vision for Saudi Arabia and to pitch for investments.

Mr. Trump has stood by Prince Mohammed, despite the Central Intelligence Agency's assessment that he likely ordered the killing. The prince has denied that, but said that as de facto leader he bears ultimate responsibility for Mr. Khashoggi's death.

Agnes Callamard, the U.N.'s special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings who has called for Prince Mohammed and other senior officials to be investigated, said the final Saudi rulings lacked legal and moral legitimacy.

"They came at the end of a process which was neither fair, nor just, or transparent," she said. "These verdicts cannot be allowed to whitewash what happened."

The murder of Mr. Khashoggi, a well-known critic of the kingdom's leadership who had fled fearing arrest and later wrote columns for the Washington Post, came amid a crackdown on critics of the crown prince. The clampdown has included the arrests of activists, intellectuals and clerics. It has coincided with Prince Mohammed's campaign to ease some of the country's conservative social rules, but the Saudi heir has shown little tolerance for dissent among ordinary Saudis or former top officials.

Mr. Khashoggi was killed and his body dismembered by Saudi agents during an October 2018 visit to the kingdom's consulate where he was seeking papers needed to marry his Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz.

"Everyone knows that Jamal Khashoggi's real killers are not the eight who were convicted and imprisoned, but those who planned, decided and gave the orders to assassinate him in this hideous way," Ms. Cengiz tweeted on Monday following the public prosecutor's statement.

The killing evoked an international outcry over Saudi Arabia's human-rights record and slowed foreign investments in the kingdom. Supporters of Prince Mohammed contend it is time to move on from one of the most controversial chapters of Al Saud family rule.

In the murder, a team of Saudi operatives flew to Istanbul and dismembered Mr. Khashoggi's body inside the consulate. Saudi officials initially denied any knowledge of the killing and claimed the journalist had left the building safely.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman retains support from President Trump.

A secretive trial in Riyadh was meant to show Saudi Arabia's ability to deliver accountability, but human-rights groups denounced it as a coverup.

Eleven people were put on trial, but three were later released, including former deputy intelligence chief Ahmed al-Assiri, who is close to Prince Mohammed. Saud al-Qahtani, top royal adviser, was never charged or tried. He was fired from his position in the Saudi Royal Court following the killing but continued to play an informal advisory role, U.S. officials have said.

Saudi authorities have never publicly named those who were convicted of the killing. People familiar with the proceedings have said they are low-level officials, some with ties to Prince Mohammed, who flew into Turkey for the operation.

On Monday, Turkey said the verdict fell short and left many questions unanswered. "We still don't know what happened to Khashoggi's body, who wanted him dead or if there were local collaborators," Fahrettin Altun, Turkey's presidential communications director, said.

Assange Bid to Delay Extradition Hearing Fails

By Jason Douglas

LONDON—A British judge refused a request by lawyers acting for Julian Assange to adjourn his extradition hearing until next year, as the WikiLeaks founder's fight against extradition to the U.S. resumed after months of delay caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Assange, a 49-year-old Australian, is wanted in the U.S. on 18 charges of breaking espionage laws and conspiring to hack a military computer. The alleged offenses relate to the publication in 2010 and 2011 by WikiLeaks of a huge trove of classified material that painted a bleak picture of the American campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan and their aftermath.

Mr. Assange has repeatedly defended his work and the wider WikiLeaks project as public-interest journalism that exposed wrongdoing by the U.S. and other governments.

The latest stage of the hearing, which had been due to take place in May but was pushed back when a nationwide lockdown to halt the coronavirus disrupted British courts, began on Monday and is scheduled to last several weeks. Lawyers say they would expect either side to appeal the initial ruling, meaning a final decision on Mr. Assange's extradition may not be made until next year or 2022.

Mark Summers, a lawyer representing Mr. Assange, on Monday asked the court for an adjournment until January to give the defense time to answer fresh allegations against the WikiLeaks founder presented by the Justice Department in June.

District Judge Vanessa Baraitser refused, saying the defense has had ample time since June to request an adjournment and shouldn't have done so once proceedings were again under way. "The defense have had ample time to return to court and explain that they had insufficient time," she said.

The U.S. case is that Mr. Assange broke the law by soliciting classified material from former U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning and by helping her crack a password to obtain that material. Publication of the diplomatic cables and military logs she provided endangered the lives of U.S. intelligence sources, the U.S. government alleges.

In June, the Justice Department issued a fresh indictment that included new allegations that broadened the scope, the department said, of the conspiracy surrounding alleged computer intrusions with which Mr. Assange has been charged.

He is alleged between 2007 and 2015 to have encouraged and assisted hackers affiliated with the groups Anonymous and LulzSec to obtain classified information published by WikiLeaks, and to have played a role in helping Edward Snowden, a National Security Agency contractor who in 2013 leaked details of clandestine surveillance programs to the press, to evade arrest.

Mr. Assange formally refused the U.S. extradition request in court on Monday. He denies he solicited anything from Ms. Manning or helped her steal classified files. The defense argues that Mr. Assange's prosecution is politically motivated, a potential bar to extradition under a bilateral treaty between the U.S. and U.K. that governs extradition requests.

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China Exports Accelerate, Top Forecasts

By Jonathan Cheng

BEIJING—China's export machine gained steam in August as countries gradually recovering from coronavirus lockdowns, including the U.S., snapped up more Chinese-made goods.

Outbound shipments from China rose 9.5% in August from a year earlier, beating July's 7.2% increase and economists' median forecast for 7.3% growth, data released by the General Administration of Customs showed on Monday.

August marked the third consecutive month that China's exports outpaced those of the year-earlier month. It marks a stark turnaround from the start of the year, when the pandemic crippled China's factories and global shipping networks.

In the depths of the coronavirus pandemic, economists had predicted the export sector would be among the hardest-hit in China's economy, as countries shut their borders and global demand dropped.

Instead, Chinese exporters, aided by the government's heavy-handed but effective control of the coronavirus and its policies to support the economy, managed to grab a greater share of global exports in the second quarter, while other exporting countries remained paralyzed by the pandemic.

Key to the export recovery has been China's outbound shipments of coronavirus-related medical supplies, including face masks, though economists expect the momentum to slow in the coming months as other countries resume production. Electronic goods have also fared well as swaths of the developed world shifted to online work, said Xing Zhaopeng, an economist with ANZ, an investment bank.

Beyond those two areas of strength, however, other export categories continued to be just lukewarm, which could mean China's outperformance on exports could fade, Mr. Xing said.

In the coming months, China's exporters are likely to face increased competition from countries such as Vietnam and South Korea, some of which have overcome the worst of the pandemic and are quickly ramping up production capacity again, says Ning Zhang, an economist at UBS.

"For low- and middle-end products, these exporters may gradually regain market share" from China, Mr. Zhang said.

China's imports, meanwhile, fell 2.1% in August from a year earlier, worse than July's 1.4% year-over-year drop and economists' expectations for a 0.2% fall. The steep drop-off in imports was mainly because of low commodity prices and a high-base comparison from the previous year, said Julian Evans-Pritchard, an economist at Capital Economics.

"Imports are doing just as well as exports once price effects are adjusted for," Mr. Evans-Pritchard said. He estimated that by volume, imports actually rose 9.5% in August from last year.

China has stepped up purchases of commodities in global markets thanks to increased infrastructure investment at home and its trade-deal commitment to buy more U.S. energy and farm products.

China's imports from the U.S. rose 1.8% in August from a year earlier in dollar terms, slower than July's 3.6% increase.

However, Chinese exports to the U.S. jumped 20% in August, up from 12.6% in July. That is partly because of the sudden drop in exports the previous year as the U.S.-China trade war intensified, said Mr. Zhang of UBS.

The increased flow of Chinese goods to the U.S. in August widened the trade gap between the world's two largest economies to $34.24 billion, the largest margin in almost two years.

ZHANG JINGANG/SIPA ASIA/ZUMA PRESS

The Shandong Pilot Free Trade Zone has helped China boost commerce since it was launched a year ago.

Foreign Reporters Are Left in Limbo

Chinese authorities haven't renewed expiring press credentials for at least five reporters working for U.S. media outlets, the latest escalation in a back-and-forth over journalist visas as relations between the U.S. and China deteriorate.

Beijing has issued special letters to the journalists, one of whom works for The Wall Street Journal, that allow them to continue working with their expired press credentials for now.

"The relevant measures are a response to the measures the U.S. side took against journalists at Chinese media," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian at a regular press briefing on Monday.

CNN reported Sunday that its correspondent David Culver is among those affected by the move. On Monday, Bloomberg News said two of its reporters in China had also received special letters instead of renewed press credentials.

Normally, a Chinese press card has to be renewed for a visa to be issued.

Two of the reporters, Mr. Culver and Journal senior correspondent Jeremy Page, were told their visas were being renewed but cut to two-month terms from one year previously.

China's latest move comes as the U.S. has yet to formally renew the work visas of U.S.-based Chinese journalists, for whom a three-month grace period expires in early November, according to people familiar with the issue.

Beijing Sets Policy On Data Security

By Chun Han Wong

HONG KONG—China is launching its own initiative to set global standards on data security, countering U.S. efforts to persuade like-minded countries to ringfence their networks from Chinese technology.

Announcing the initiative on Tuesday at a Beijing seminar on global digital governance, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi cited growing risks to data security and what he characterized as efforts to politicize security issues and smear rival countries on technology matters—in an apparent swipe at Washington.

To counter such challenges, "it is important to develop a set of international rules on data security that reflect the will and respect the interests of all countries," Mr. Wang said, according to a transcript of his speech published by China's Foreign Ministry.

Beijing's initiative comes amid heightened tensions with Washington over issues including trade and technological competition, which has raised the specter of an increasingly bifurcated internet.

In recent months, the Trump administration has taken steps to curtail what it describes as national-security threats from Chinese tech firms like **Huawei Technologies** Co. and popular Chinese apps including **ByteDance** Ltd.'s TikTok and **Tencent Holdings** Ltd.'s WeChat. Chinese officials, meanwhile, have accused the U.S. of imposing a double standard and of trying to sabotage the efforts of Chinese businesses to expand.

The Chinese initiative comes about a month after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the Clean Network program, which would exclude Chinese telecommunications firms, apps, cloud providers and undersea cables from internet infrastructure used by the U.S. and other countries.

Under its new "Global Initiative on Data Security," China would call on all countries to handle data security in a "comprehensive, objective and evidence-based manner" and maintain an open, secure and stable supply chain for information and communications technology and services, according to a text released by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

It also would urge governments to respect other countries' sovereignty in how they handle data—in line with Beijing's vision of "cyber sovereignty," whereby countries exercise full control over their own corners of the internet.

The initiative doesn't mention the U.S. or its Clean Network program. Mr. Wang nonetheless made it clear in his announcement that the move comes in response to the White House effort.

"Bent on unilateral acts, a certain country keeps making groundless accusations against others in the name of 'clean' network and used security as a pretext to prey on enterprises of other countries who have a competitive edge," Mr. Wang said, according to the transcript.

WORLD WATCH

ISRAEL

Overnight Curfew Set As Infections Surge

Israel plans to impose nighttime curfews and close schools in dozens of cities and towns hit hard by the coronavirus, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces growing pressure to contain a surge in infections.

The curfews take effect Tuesday and last from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m., according to officials, who didn't specify how long they will remain in effect. Schools will close starting Wednesday in these areas, they said.

The restrictions come as Israel prepares for the Jewish New Year holidays this month, a period of travel and social gatherings that officials fear could further spread the virus after a sharp rise in recent weeks.

Mr. Netanyahu's government initially voted to impose a full lockdown on the nine or 10 most virus-ridden cities and towns, on the recommendation of the new coronavirus czar, Ronni Gamzu. Most are dominated by either ultra-Orthodox or Arab communities, who often live in the poorest and most crowded areas of the country.

On Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu changed tack after facing pushback from ultra-Orthodox mayors, who said their offices would not comply. His government instead decided to impose an overnight curfew and close schools in about 40 cities and towns with high infection rates.

—Dov Lieber

YONHAP NEWS AGENCY/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

SWAMPED: Typhoon Haishen damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands in South Korea on Monday after battering islands in southern Japan, killing one person and injuring dozens. Above, the swollen Taehwa River in Ulsan, South Korea.

MALI

Two French Soldiers Killed in Bomb Attack

Two French soldiers were killed in Mali on Saturday when their vehicle hit a bomb during operations under France's counterterrorism mission in Africa's Sahel region. France has around 5,100 soldiers in the region fighting jihadists in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and elsewhere.

—Matthew Dalton

LEBANON

Search For Possible Blast Survivor Ends

The search for a possible survivor of the Beirut port explosion was ended after more than three days of combing through the rubble of a collapsed building by a Chilean rescue team.

A sniffer dog first alerted members of the team that someone might be in the rubble and a sensor and thermal camera indicated breathing. Several people remain unaccounted for in the blast that killed at least 190 people Aug. 4.

—Raja Abdulrahim

PHILIPPINES

U.S. Marine Pardoned In Transgender Killing

President Rodrigo Duterte pardoned a U.S. Marine in a surprise move that will free him from prison in the 2014 killing of a transgender Filipino woman.

Mr. Duterte said he decided to pardon Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton because the Marine wasn't treated fairly by opponents who blocked his early release for good conduct. Mr. Pemberton was convicted of homicide and has been serving a term of six to 10 years for the killing of Jennifer Laude. Her family denounced the pardon as an injustice, including to the LGBTQ community, a family lawyer said.

—Associated Press

FROM PAGE ONE

Boeing Faces Probe Over Safety

Continued from Page One

that the agency's concerns are significant.

Boeing has told regulators a defect resulting from the quality lapse doesn't pose an immediate safety threat to Boeing's flagship fleet of Dreamliners, people familiar with the matter said. The wide-body jets have an excellent safety record and are frequently used on international routes. Regulators aren't preparing immediate action and haven't publicly signaled what steps they might take.

But that slip-up combined with another recently discovered assembly-line defect prompted Boeing to take the unusual step in late August to voluntarily tell airlines to ground eight of their 787s for immediate repairs. Since then, Boeing has publicly confirmed the eight planes weren't safe to remain in service.

Both defects together led Boeing to determine the eight jets didn't meet structural-soundness "requirements for safe flight and landing," according to the FAA memo, which summarized the status of the agency's examination of the issue. Boeing also determined the second defect by itself doesn't pose an imminent safety hazard.

The extent of FAA scrutiny of Dreamliner production lapses and the period it covers haven't been reported previously. The Air Current, a trade publication, earlier reported the factory lapses and August groundings of the eight planes, which are slated to end when Boeing-led teams complete fixes expected to take about two weeks.

A Boeing spokesman said the plane maker is conducting a thorough review to understand the cause of the two defects and is inspecting newly produced airplanes before delivery. The company has fully briefed the FAA and is working closely with regulators, he added.

The agency's high-level review includes analyses of data and production parts. On Monday, after this article was published, the FAA released a statement saying it "is investigating manufacturing flaws affecting certain Boeing 787 jetliners," and adding that "it is too early to speculate about the nature or extent of any proposed airworthiness directives that might arise" from the probe.

The manufacturing slip-ups mark the latest production problems for the troubled plane maker and present a test for Chief Executive David Calhoun and a revamped safety-review process after two fatal accidents of its narrow-body 737 MAX. The crashes took 346 lives.

The Boeing spokesman said a new internal safety-review process put in place after the MAX crashes worked as intended. He added that the company took proactive steps to address the problems.

Stepped-up safety inspections and repairs could disrupt airline maintenance schedules and passenger flight schedules.

Deliberations about mandated inspections and how many Dreamliners might be covered have been under way inside the FAA for months, people familiar with the matter said. Such a directive would target excessive stresses that could cause premature material fatigue affecting the carbon composite parts that fit behind the passenger cabin. A person familiar with Boeing's internal review on Sunday said there is no indication at this point suggesting the defects stretch back to the jet's early years, but said the analysis was continuing.

The FAA, a person briefed on the agency's deliberations said, is focused on identifying how the manufacturing breakdowns occurred, why Boeing's computerized safeguards failed to flag mismatches between the parts that failed to meet design standards and what changes are required to ensure the 787 fleet's continued safety.

As Boeing engineers comb through records to identity planes with possible flaws, the FAA has learned what prompted one of the defects: The plane maker didn't test how it produces shims, or material that fills gaps between barrel-shaped sections of the jets' fuselages, to ensure they meet requirements, according to the FAA memo. The shims are produced at Boeing's Dreamliner factory in North Charleston, S.C.

Boeing's process to generate shims was "not validated prior to implementation into the production process" and lacked a quality check to verify the final product "meets the engineering requirements," according to the FAA memo. "Boeing has acknowledged a process that produces nonconforming products" and is working to change that, the memo adds.

According the memo, Boeing's request for more time to resolve some issues "adds to the risk of the fleet."

Boeing identified the suspect shims in August 2019 and immediately reactivated a computerized quality check that identifies improper shims that had been turned off, the person familiar with Boeing's internal review said. The second defect, which this person said Boeing detected in August as part of an internal review, stems from variations in the smoothness of the interior fuselage skin near the rear of the planes.

—Doug Cameron contributed to this article.

FROM PAGE ONE

Some Win At Hotel Lockdown

Continued from Page One

to spend 14 days holed up in a hotel room. No one has any choice in where they go and bus drivers shuttling travelers from the airport won't say where they are headed.

For some that means staying somewhere with marble bathrooms, big televisions and dramatic views, and which might run upward of $400 a night, for a fraction of that or even free.

It is still far from a full five-star experience. Guests can't leave their rooms, and there is no housekeeping. Hotel staff drop meals off outside guests' doors. In many hotels, guests get fresh towels every three days, and new sheets after a week. Lottery losers might get two weeks cooped up in cramped quarters in smaller hotels, travelers say. Rooms might be equipped with little more than a bed, desk and chair, and there can sometimes be little or no choice for meals, they say.

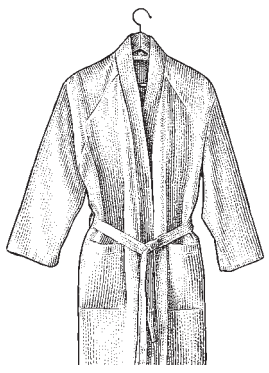
Jessie Ling, a 41-year-old consultant, was put up at the glitzy Marina Bay Sands Hotel earlier this summer after coming from Dubai. She was impressed with the wide selection and quality of the food. "I finished every dessert," she said. "And I'm not a dessert person."

On arrival, she said, staff warned her: "The keycard can only work once. If you leave the room, you can't enter again." The hotel declined to comment and said it is no longer used for the 14-day quarantine for returning travelers.

Mrs. Van Dee, the interior designer, said she washed her young son's clothes in the Ritz-Carlton bathtub and hung them up to dry next to the windows. To entertain him, she blew him bubbles and balloons, and let him frolic in the big tub.

Barbara Voskamp, a 44-year-old lawyer from the Netherlands who now lives in Singapore, returned in late August with two of her children, aged 10 and 12, after visiting her mother. She got her husband, who had stayed in Singapore with their two other children, to bring wet wipes, a sponge, cleaning sprays, fresh fruit and even a vacuum cleaner. Her five-star hotel's fierce air-conditioning seemed impervious to the room's temperature controls, so her spouse also brought warm clothes, although outside it was more than 86 degrees Fahrenheit. "It is so cold inside. We're all wearing our ski jackets," she said.

The quarantine rules apply to people arriving from all but a few countries, and Singapore's government says this is effective in isolating people until they prove virus-free.



If you must quarantine

Most arrivals pay the equivalent of about $1,460 per person per room, for the 14 days, plus $146 for a Covid-19 test during their stay.

Some local residents pay nothing, if they had left Singapore before the coronavirus began spreading widely. In contrast, the cheapest room available on Booking.com for two weeks at the Ritz-Carlton in early October costs nearly $5,850 with taxes and fees.

The Ritz-Carlton didn't respond to a request for comment.

Tan Yen Nee, the Singapore Tourism Board's director of hotel and sector manpower, said travelers were assigned hotels based on factors such as timing and hotel occupancy. She said some special requests had been granted, including allowing arrivees and emotional-support animals "to stay together at a pet-friendly hotel." She said guidelines for the hotels involved include measures to ensure a safe environment for guests and staff, security protocols, and infection-control measures and precautions.

Singapore has had more than 57,000 coronavirus infections, and 27 deaths, out of a population of about 5.7 million. Gatherings of more than five are banned, face masks are mandatory outdoors, and most people must still work from home, though all schools have reopened.

Others were less fortunate in the quarantine lottery.

Ketan Mangal arrived from India recently to resume work as an IT sales manager. The 38-year-old said he found windows that didn't open, among other complaints. Virtually every meal had the same ingredients, and he threw out most of the food, he said.

Ron Kaufman, a 64-year-old author and customer-service consultant, and his wife, Jenny Kaufman, returned from Brazil via London in March. They got a tiny room in a three-star hotel overlooking a parking garage, with a window that didn't open, and a shower, he said. Only one computer would fit on the table in the room, so his wife used a suitcase with a luggage rack as a second desk.

"As I imagined us staying in a nicer space, I could feel my spirit crumble," he said. "Then I saw an ambulance pull up to take someone out of the hotel for further medical care, and went back to counting my blessings."

Wily Virus Outpaces Science

Continued from Page One

lion confirmed cases so far.

Doctors long expected the advent of such a virus, but even so, the shrewdness of the coronavirus caught many by surprise, and goes a long way to explaining how the world has struggled to contain it ever since.

"We underestimated it," said Peter Piot, the head of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and a co-discoverer of Ebola, who fell victim to the coronavirus himself in March.

Modern travel made it easy for the new coronavirus to spread to frequent fliers. It slipped unnoticed aboard a cruise ship in Japan and into Zumba classes in South Korea. It infected mourners at a funeral in suburban New York, a choir in Skagit County, Wash., and students on spring break in Florida.

Initially, it was widely believed the virus made its home in bats, which harbor hundreds of different kinds of coronaviruses. But it ventured into new species.

In Hong Kong, Yuen Kwok-yung had been waiting more than a decade for a virus like this to surface.

The 63-year-old infectious diseases professor at the University of Hong Kong became enthralled with bat coronaviruses since making the connection between bats and the original SARS outbreak in 2003, which was caused by a related coronavirus. He amassed a database of animal surveillance, showing 39% of Chinese horseshoe bats could be harboring SARS-related coronaviruses. In 2007, he wrote in Clinical Microbiology Reviews that those findings represented "a time bomb."

Bats' cells can survive surges in metabolism—their hearts can go from 10 beats a minute during hibernation to 1,000 beats in flight. It is thought their constitution makes them ideally suited to be a reservoir where a virus can stay, biding its time before jumping to another host species, an event known as a spillover.

At the end of December, Dr. Yuen, who has been known to show off his photo collection of bats in caves, was beginning to suspect his fears were realized after hearing about a mystery pneumonia afflicting patients around 600 miles away in Wuhan. He warned Hong Kong officials that something was coming, helping spur the city's response.

After Chinese officials posted the gene sequence of the new coronavirus to share with scientists around the world on Jan. 12, he and others grew increasingly sure where the killer came from. It was so similar to known bat SARS-related coronaviruses, it must have once been one of them, Dr. Yuen said.

But around the same time at the HKU-Shenzhen hospital, where Dr. Yuen also heads the microbiology and infectious-disease department, six family members had returned to the southern Chinese city after a visit to Wuhan. They began to feel unwell. The virus had got to them, from the oldest family member, who eventually died, to a 10-year-old boy.

The cluster suggested the virus had a dangerous trait, Dr. Yuen said: It was spreading between humans.

He shared his findings with experts from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, adding to a growing body of evidence that led China to confirm to the world that the virus was leaping from person to person.

A borrowed life

All told, there are more viruses than stars in the known universe. Trillions upon trillions of viruses float in the air and ride on the clouds. Scientists at the University of British Columbia estimate that 800 million viruses rain onto every square meter of the planet every day. A coronavirus itself is so small that 500 of them could fit within the diameter of a human hair.

Many scientists can't decide whether a virus is actually alive in any conventional sense. All viruses lead a kind of borrowed life, chemists say. They are a submicroscopic essence of the need to reproduce that by nature is at cross-purposes with humankind.

"Viruses don't think. They don't have desires," said Columbia University virologist Angela Rasmussen.

In the absence of desire, they have purpose: to spread, multiply and survive.

SARS-CoV-2 isn't the first virus to have its impact broadened by travel. Smallpox, which killed 300 million people or more in the 20th century alone, first traversed the world by sailing with the Vikings a thousand years ago, new research into the history of epidemics suggests.

The coronavirus belongs to a category of viruses that work by transmitting chemical code, called RNA, sealed inside a protective protein envelope. RNA is a nucleic acid present in all living cells that usually acts as a messenger to relay genetic instructions in DNA, telling the cells what to do. Once the virus gets inside a host cell, it seizes the cell's reproductive machinery.

Without that maneuver, the coronavirus is impotent. It could never reproduce and churn out the millions of new coronavirus cells in a spreading infection. When it kills, it is almost out of carelessness. Its own survival depends on sparing its victims to continue as vehicles for its propagation.

While estimates vary widely, SARS-CoV-2 appears to kill about 0.6% of the people it infects—about six times that of a typical flu. By comparison, two other human coronaviruses are far more lethal but harder to contract.

As David Hui, a respiratory disease expert at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said, it is "mild, until it decides to become nasty."

Investigators quickly realized that SARS-CoV-2 usually seeks out type II lung cells in the people it hijacks. These coat membranes lining the nose, throat and sinuses, and into the lungs. The coronavirus pries the cells open with a molecular structure called a spike protein that it uses like a crowbar to force entry. In images that scientists made to study it, the round virus bristles with spikes. The spike protein locks onto a receptor called the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2, or ACE-2, which typically regulates a protein that increases blood pressure and inflammation.

Researchers at the Francis Crick Institute in London used a technique called cryo-electron microscopy to compare this structure to the spike protein of a bat coronavirus most like that of SARS-CoV-2. They saw subtle differences in the spike of SARS-CoV-2 that make it able to bind about 1,000 times more tightly to a human cell than the bat virus, the scientists said.

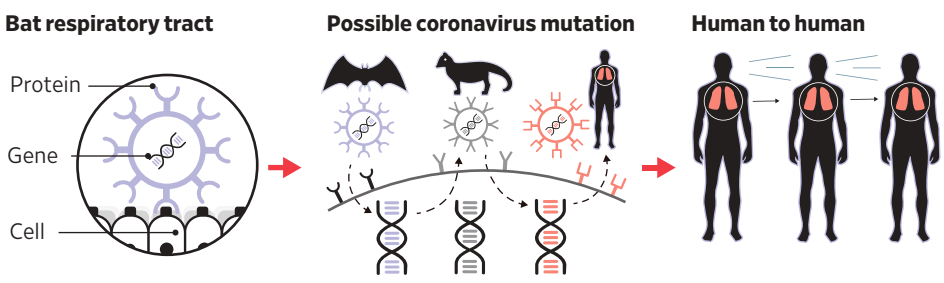
Once inside a human cell, the new coronavirus has a rare ability to silence alarms that would normally alert the immune system to mobilize antibodies and virus-killing cells, according to microbiologists at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York.

KHOLOOD EID FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Melissa Marton and Robert Furatero at the New York Genome Center.

From Bat to Human

SARS-CoV-2 is very similar to known SARS-related coronaviruses in bats, especially horseshoe bats. It is believed that a bat virus mutated in order to infect humans.



The bat virus attached to cells in a bat's respiratory tract.

Scientists suspect the bat virus mutated to become able to infect an intermediate host, such as a civet or pangolin, before mutating again to become able to infect humans, in a process called spillover.

After human infection, the virus was free to replicate and infect others through coughing, sneezing and other contact.

Sources: Timothy Sheahan, University of North Carolina, National Institutes of Health

Bewildering complications

Doctors who first encountered it diagnosed it as a respiratory virus. They looked for symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. But Covid-19 triggered bewildering complications.

People complained of nausea or diarrhea. Some had arrhythmias or even heart attacks. Some suffered kidney damage or liver failure. Some lost their sense of smell or taste. Others turned up at clinics with blood clots or swollen purple bumps on their toes.

> **'Every two weeks or so, it seems that the virus picks up a new mutation.'**

In most countries where the virus triggered outbreaks, it sent people to the hospital with delirium, blackouts, brain inflammation or strokes, researchers at the U.K.'s Liverpool University reported in The Lancet Neurology in July.

By coming into contact with this virus, "you wouldn't know what kind of effect a meeting with it would have: Maybe you will be unscathed, but maybe you would die," said University of Oxford vaccine expert Sarah Gilbert.

Heidi Larson first met the virus when her husband started feeling lethargic and feverish. He lost his appetite and struggled to lift a spoon. When she touched his forehead, it burned. "But fever can mean many things," she said.

Prof. Larson, an anthropologist specializing in vaccines, has survived typhoid in Nepal and eosinophilic meningitis in Fiji. Her husband is 71-year-old Dr. Piot, the virus hunter who co-discovered Ebola. With no signs of Dr. Piot's fever subsiding over the course of a week, their suspicions began to sink in. A test confirmed: The man who had spent his life combating viruses was now besieged by one.

By the 14th day, his fever spiking, they rushed to the emergency room and he was immediately admitted. He had no breathing difficulties but his oxygen saturation levels were dangerously low, a condition called silent hypoxia. In his more lucid moments, he kept thinking: "It got me. The virus got me."

Dr. Piot was relieved when he was discharged. But then came a second wave: He got chills and a form of pneumonia. He thinks his body was hit by a so-called cytokine storm, a side effect in which the body's immune system goes into overdrive and attacks more than just the invader.

Prof. Larson tested positive for antibodies, suggesting she was also a victim, but her symptoms were different, too: conjunctivitis and splitting headaches. "This virus is really diabolical, it came like a thief in the night with an insatiable appetite for victims to devour," Dr. Piot said. "It behaves unlike any other virus."

The virus has infected millions of people who never got sick or were only mildly ill, which allowed it to reproduce while its victims spread it in ever-widening circles.

In the early days of the pandemic, researchers thought children might be less affected by the coronavirus, with lower rates of hospitalization and few deaths. But the very young are more vulnerable than initially suspected.

By the end of July, nearly 340,000 children in the U.S. had tested positive for Covid-19, or 8.8% of all reported cases. No one is sure yet how readily children transmit the virus or whether they are highly contagious when they show no symptoms.

The virus's own internal chemistry alone wasn't enough to account for so much variation of symptoms, severity and deaths.

Forensics team

There is no shortage of possible contributing causes: old age, gender, underlying chronic diseases such as diabetes, lack of health care and poor diet. Investigators also turned their attention to gene variations that might make some uniquely vulnerable.

"The immune system in people is as diverse as beauty, height, intelligence and any other human feature," said molecular immunologist Michel Nussenzweig at Rockefeller University in New York. "Not everybody is the same in their ability to fight infection."

At Rockefeller and the New York Genome Center, scientists are comparing the entire genomes of those most severely affected by the coronavirus to those who experience only mild symptoms—and then to the coronavirus itself. They are part of a network in 50 countries that is studying the new disease by analyzing the DNA from millions of people. At this level of molecular biology, the virus and its victim are one, their genetic material intermingled in a tiny vial awaiting processing.

They can already tell the virus is evolving.

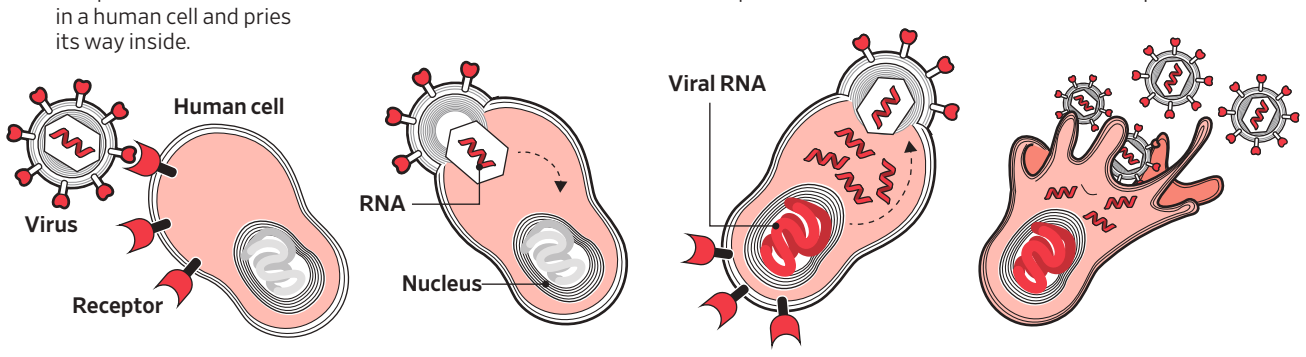
"The virus changes on a fairly clockwork basis," said computational biologist Michael Zody at the genome center. "Every two weeks or so, it seems that the virus picks up a new mutation."

Most changes in the coronavirus don't make any difference now. In time, it is possible that some might make it easier to transmit from person to person or become deadlier.

So far, more than 1,200 natural variations in coronavirus strains have been identified. "Any of these mutations could functionally make the virus different," said Emma Hodcroft at the University of Basel in Switzerland who tracks its global transmission. "But this virus is very young and we haven't seen any evidence of this happening yet."

How SARS-CoV-2 Multiplies

1. The virus uses its spike protein to attach to a receptor called the ACE-2 in a human cell and pries its way inside.
2. The virus injects its RNA into the human cell's nucleus and takes over.
3. The viral RNA uses the host cell to replicate itself.
4. New virus cells are released, sometimes destroying the host cell in the process.



Source: Genome.gov

GREATER NEW YORK

9/11 Workers Are Hit Hard by Covid-19

First responders with chronic conditions from Ground Zero exposure are especially vulnerable

By Melanie Grayce West

When the new coronavirus pandemic hit New York City, New York Police Department Sgt. Raymond Holub stocked up on disinfectants and bleach cleaners, scrubbing surfaces at work four times an hour, washing his hands and keeping a distance from others.

But Covid-19 sickened him and others in his detail in late March. Five months later, he still hasn't fully recovered, in part because of underlying health problems, including a respiratory condition, from his time spent working 14- to 16-hour shifts at Ground Zero in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Sgt. Holub, 55 years old, is part of a small, particularly vulnerable population of New Yorkers who are ill from 9/11-related conditions and suffered severe illness from the coronavirus. He avoided the hospital, but months later still relies on oxygen. His long-term prognosis remains unclear, and doctors now consider him a long-haul patient, he said. He has been out of work since April 1.

"My plan was to continue working till I could get kids through college without leaving them in debt," said Sgt. Holub. "I don't know if I will be able to do that now."

Roughly 400,000 New Yorkers—first responders, residents, workers, students and others—were exposed to caustic dust and toxic pollutants in the 9/11 dust-and-debris cloud, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. New Yorkers who survived the attacks and the aftermath suffer from dozens of medical conditions, ranging from asthma to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cancers. These are all dangerous underlying conditions that can make a case of Covid-19 far more serious, according to doctors at the World Trade Center Health Program at Mount Sinai, part of a federal program to track responders' health.

Recent data from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which tracks the long-term health of more than 86,000 Sept. 11 responders and survivors, show there have been more than 1,400 confirmed cases of Covid-19 with nearly 200 hospitalizations and 44 deaths. Those numbers only reflect a sample of the total population in the program.

FROM LEFT: RAYMOND HOLUB; MARTIN PRESTON

Sgt. Raymond Holub, left, is a long-haul patient. Martin Preston's symptoms lingered for months.

After a few calls from ill patients in early March, doctors at Mount Sinai recognized that they needed to shift their care to screen for Covid-19 symptoms. They pulled in mental-health practitioners and respiratory and pulmonary doctors to help create a targeted response.

Responders who worked on the World Trade Center site are alert to the risk of illnesses that might worsen an existing condition, delay an organ transplant or affect chemotherapy, said Laura Crowley, deputy medical director for the Selikoff Centers for Occupational Health at Mount Sinai. Many are already on multiple medications for 9/11-related conditions, she said.

Some 9/11 responders quickly became ill as the pandemic took hold, said Michael Crane, the medical director of the WTC Health Program at Mount Sinai. "A lot of them were on duty in the beginning of March, when it was beginning to really climb in the population, and they couldn't get out of the way," said Dr. Crane.

Martin Preston, 67, retired last year from the Department of Citywide Administrative Services. On Sept. 11, he was at Ground Zero with then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Mr. Preston said he believes he caught Covid-19 at a party in early March and had residual symptoms until last month.

He was sick, had gone to the doctor and was sent home with a negative Covid-19 test, which turned out to be false. Mr. Preston's physician at Mount Sinai called him at 5:30 on a Saturday morning in mid-March after reviewing his chart. She urged him to go to the emergency room, said Mr. Preston, saying his symptoms were so severe that he should take an ambulance to the nearest hospital.

"I'm not getting into an ambulance," he recalled telling her. So he got in his car and drove to the Mount Sinai in Astoria, Queens. "I really wanted to live!"

Brian Curley, 55, a retired police officer, went to a hospital near his home in Rockaway, Queens, and was read last rites over the phone by his priest during a March stay that lasted more than a week. Working daily for weeks at Ground Zero left him with serious chronic sinus and respiratory conditions, skin cancer and gastrointestinal problems.

He believes he caught Covid-19 while working at a bar the weekend of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Rockaway. Two other co-workers his age were home sick for just a few days. Mr. Curley said he still suffers from muscle aches and weakness, something his Mount Sinai doctors are monitoring.

"I spend more time in bed than I usually do," he said.

West Indian American Day Parade Turns Into Virtual Celebration

SHANNON STAPLETON/REUTERS

GOING GREEN: The annual Labor Day celebration of Caribbean culture became a virtual event, due to the coronavirus. Some people still gathered early Monday in Crown Heights for the J'Ouvert party, where a shooting wounded five people, including a 6-year-old boy.

Immigration to City Is Declining, Raising Concerns About Economy

By Kate King

New York City's economy depends on immigrants, but at a time when it needs all the help it can get, the flow of new residents from overseas is slowing.

Immigration to New York City dropped 45% between 2016 and 2019, with about 34,000 immigrants moving to the city last year compared with 62,000 in 2016, according to an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates by William Frey, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. City officials and immigration advocates say tighter federal immigration policies and delays in processing visa applications during the pandemic have reduced the flow of transplants.

Immigrants make up about 45% of the local workforce and own more than half of the city's businesses, according to a 2019 report by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

"I am worried that declining rates of international immigration will hurt not only future economic growth in New York City but the stability of New York City's tax base," said Michael Hendrix, director of state and local policy at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank.

Immigration has traditionally offset the departure of New York City residents to other parts of the U.S., according to Frank Donnelly, a geospatial-data librarian at Baruch College. The recent slowdown in arrivals from other countries, however, contributed to an overall drop in the city's population the last three years.

Bitta Mostofi, commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, said immigration is essential to the city's economic development.

"We are very much a city of immigrants," she said. "You cannot look at the history of our city and not see the impact and footprint that immigrants have had on building our companies, our infrastructure, our small businesses and the culture of who we are."

President Trump has restricted immigration since taking office, including banning travel from several Muslim-majority countries, reducing the number of refugees allowed to enter the country and imposing a public-charge rule that critics say will prevent immigrants from poor countries from moving to the U.S.

Immigration has further slowed during the pandemic, with countries introducing travel restrictions and many consulates temporarily closing, delaying the processing of visa applications.

Yanki Tshering, executive director of the Business Center for New Americans, a nonprofit that provides small-business loans and financial guidance to immigrants and refugees, said she has heard from friends and family overseas that the response to the pandemic in the U.S. has dissuaded some people from moving here.

Muzaffar Chishti, director of the New York office of the Migration Policy Institute, predicts affordability will have a bigger long-term impact on immigration than the pandemic.

"Throughout New York's history, certainly in the last 120 years, immigrants have shown they have much more faith in the resilience of the city than native-born people have," he said. But, "middle-class immigrants are looking at options more than they used to because of the heavy cost of living, mostly due to rent."

Immigrants make up about 45% of the local workforce, a 2019 report found,

Immigration has helped the city recover from previous disasters. After New York City lost more than one million net residents during the 1970s financial crisis, immigrants were a driving force behind the city's population recovery over the next two decades, according to the New York City Department of City Planning.

The population of illegal immigrants in New York dropped 25% between 2008 and 2018, according to the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. The office attributes the decline to the U.S.'s slow recovery from the 2008 recession, an improving Mexican economy and increased enforcement along the border.

Armando Villanueva moved to New York City in the early 1990s from the Mexican state of Puebla. Poverty was increasing in his hometown, and at age 20, Mr. Villanueva entered the U.S. illegally and moved in with his uncle in Queens. He worked in different low-wage jobs for years before eventually becoming an auto mechanic, and now lives on Staten Island with his wife and three children, ages 9, 13 and 20. His oldest son is studying biology at the City College of New York.

Mr. Villanueva said that for a long time, so many people from his hometown in Mexico were moving to the city that they referred to it as "Puebla York." Over the past two years, he has noticed fewer people arriving. He believes a big reason is that the immigrants who moved here between 1985 and 2000 are sending money home.

"Now the young people have the resources to attend schools in Mexico," Mr. Villanueva said, adding that he sends money to support his sister and nieces. "That's the case for many other people, and probably that's why we don't see more people coming over."

Ventilation Woes Keep 10 School Buildings Closed

By Lee Hawkins

The deal reached between New York City and the teachers union on a delayed reopening of schools still partly hinges on an issue that has been on the radar all summer: the coronavirus and air quality.

The city Department of Education said Monday that it is delaying the reopening of 10 school buildings due to air quality and ventilation concerns, instructing staff at those schools to work temporarily from home instead.

The department said it plans to complete a number of repairs "within the next couple of days," and that it is identifying alternative spaces at schools where repairs can't be completed by Sept 21, the date when in-person instruction is set to begin at city schools.

"School leaders will work with Division of School Facilities staff to determine timelines for repairs and the impact temporary room closures might have on school programming," the department said.

The United Federation of Teachers, which represents about 120,000 city Department of Education employees, deployed its own teams to inspect ventilation, fans and windows, mainly to double-check the DOE's inspections. The DOE had earlier shut down some classrooms that it found unsafe, and the union said its involvement as a watchdog promises ventilation will be a key issue to reopening schools.

UFT President Michael Mulgrew said Monday that inspections by the DOE and the union identified "serious ventilation issues."

"We will continue to monitor these buildings and other schools to make sure all ventilation problems are solved," he said. "Where repairs and upgrades cannot be made, we will work with the DOE to help find alternative space before students return Sept 21."

The city's deal to delay the start of in-person instruction until Sept. 21 averted a strike-authorization vote by union delegates and was contingent on the city's taking additional safety measures, including ventilation inspections. The deal calls for testing a random sample of 10% to 20% of students and staff at each school monthly. While students are allowed to learn remotely full time, city officials have said most children are expected to spend one, two or three days a week in school buildings and the rest of the time learning from home.

Teachers return to classrooms Tuesday.

In a Thursday briefing, Mayor Bill de Blasio said that 90% of schools "are ready right now" and that any DOE buildings or classrooms that aren't ready won't be used.

"If there's a problem, obviously, there's some time to fix them," he said. "But we've been really clear, if for any reason the classroom's not ready for the first day of school, it'll be held back. If there's a building with a problem, we either fix the problem or we even hold that back."

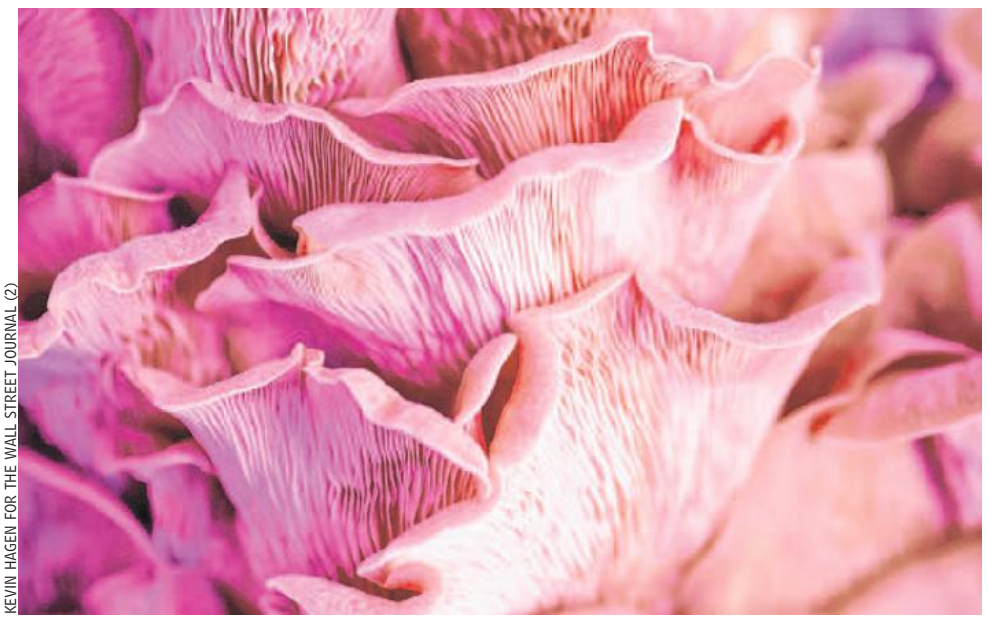
The union set up a hotline for members to report problems and said it has found problems with ventilation in some schools. For instance, a building on Manhattan's Upper West Side known as the Martin Luther King Jr. Educational Complex, where most classrooms have no windows, was found to have a mechanical ventilation system that "has not worked properly for a number of years," according to a report from the union.

Located near Lincoln Center, the building houses six high schools, with two of the four levels located in the basement. The UFT said a 90-minute walk-through revealed that MLK had ineffective filters "drooping and clogged with dirt," as well as fans that didn't bring in outside air.

The MLK complex was among the 10 buildings whose reopening was delayed Monday.

CARLO ALLEGRI/REUTERS

Mayor Bill de Blasio toured a Brooklyn school earlier this month.



KEVIN HAGEN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (2)

Pink oyster mushrooms are among the lesser-known varieties produced by Smallhold. Company co-founders Andrew Carter, standing, and Adam DeMartino are looking to expand their market.

A Mushroom Business Grows in Brooklyn

By Charles Passy

For several years, Brooklyn has cultivated an image as a hotbed for all things artisanal, from cheese to chocolate. Now a pair of entrepreneurs say it is time for fungi to share the culinary spotlight.

Andrew Carter and Adam DeMartino are founders of Smallhold, a Brooklyn business that specializes in growing and selling lesser-known varieties of mushrooms. The company, started in early 2017, will open a 3,000-square-foot South Williamsburg facility to customers in mid-September as part of a significant effort to expand its market.

In the warehouselike space, Mr. Carter, 35 years old, and Mr. DeMartino, 36, are already tending to their crops, which are naturally suited to growing indoors in a matter of weeks with the right lighting, temperature and humidity controls.

The mushrooms come in assorted shapes and hues, and often more closely resemble sci-fi alien life-forms than toppings on a pizza or ingredients in a salad.

The varieties include the vividly colored pink oyster and the lion's mane, named for its shaggy appearance. But these mushrooms aren't just about looks, the company founders insist.

Messrs. Carter and DeMartino, who met while students at the University of Vermont, said these fungi have a taste far more distinctive than the white button mushroom, which remains America's most popular variety.

Mr. DeMartino said the pink oyster is the "most mushroomy-tasting mushroom," with an intense, umami-like appeal. The lion's mane is characterized by a nutty flavor, he added, though it is also known for its stringy texture.

"It can be shredded like a fresh mozzarella cheese," Mr. DeMartino said.

Smallhold is being funded with an investment of about $3.7 million, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The business, which has a staff of 15, has worked from other locations in the borough—it started its operations out of a shipping container-turned-grow house in Williamsburg—and has built a steady clientele with many restaurants and retailers in the city, including Whole Foods.

The mushrooms retail for around $7 to $10 a half-pound box. Smallhold said it is currently producing thousands of pounds a week, making use of another space it has in the borough.

Now, as the company prepares for further growth, it appears to be tapping into a few key trends.

As part of the back-to-the-land movement and the burgeoning interest in locally sourced foods, a number of urban farms have established themselves in New York and other cities, according to culinary and agricultural professionals. Such locales are especially appropriate for mushroom farming because it is generally done indoors, notwithstanding foraging for certain wild varieties. In addition, no soil is needed. The Smallhold team grows its mushrooms in bags that contain sawdust and other fillers.

And mushrooms tend to, well, mushroom.

"Their yield is fantastic," said Henry Gordon-Smith, an urban-farming pioneer who runs Agritecture, a New York-based consulting firm that works with city farms around the world. Mr. Gordon-Smith has also advised Smallhold.

On top of that, the Smallhold team says there is demand for these lesser-known mushroom varieties of late. Mr. DeMartino sees it in terms of what might be called the kale effect, when a dark, leafy green took off and expanded America's palate for vegetables.

"Ever since kale we've had an explosion with different kinds of produce," he said.

Chris Manca, who oversees partnerships with local suppliers in the Northeast for Whole Foods, said that when it comes to mushrooms, shoppers are looking beyond the button variety. "There's an evolution of consumer interest" in specialty mushrooms, he said.

As much as Smallhold identifies itself as a Brooklyn brand, plans call for the company to set up satellite grow houses in other parts of the country.

Smallhold also aims to add facilities within restaurants and grocery stores, something it is already doing in the New York area at select locations, including a few Whole Foods stores.

The idea is to bring consumers as close to the source as possible for these decidedly different mushrooms.

"It's a completely different experience when you have a mushroom that's freshly harvested," said Mr. Carter.

GREATER NEW YORK WATCH

ROCHESTER

Protesters Demand Police Accountability

Naked except for "spit hoods" in a reference to the killing of Daniel Prude, several protesters sat outside Rochester's police headquarters Monday morning to push for police accountability.

Photos and video showed roughly a half-dozen demonstrators, naked or minimally clothed and some with "Black Lives Matter" written on their backs, sitting silently with their hands behind them, on a rain-slicked street outside the city Public Safety Building.

Mr. Prude, a 41-year-old Black man, died after police found him running naked in a street March 23, put a hood over his head to stop him from spitting, then held him down for about two minutes until he stopped breathing. He died a week later after he was taken off life support.

His brother, had called 911 seeking help for Mr. Prude's behavior.

Seven police officers were suspended Thursday, and state Attorney General Letitia James said Saturday she would form a grand jury and conduct an "exhaustive investigation" into Mr. Prude's death.

Police union officials have said the officers were following their training.

—Associated Press

NEW JERSEY

Two Men Arrested In Double Stabbing

Police in Point Pleasant arrested two people Monday in relation to a double stabbing on the Jersey Shore.

The police department said officers responded a call about a fight on the beach and found two men with stab wounds. They were taken to a hospital.

The police department said it had two men in custody and there is no threat to the public. Police were still investigating and said more information will be provided at a later date.

—Associated Press

PURCHASE ORIGINAL APPAREL AT WSJSHOP.COM

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL MAGAZINE

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Do Pets Spread Covid-19? Here's What Experts Say

Keep cats and dogs socially distant from other animals as transmission rates are low unless, like people, they are in prolonged and close contact

By Jason Douglas

The chances of getting Covid-19 from a pet is close to zero, experts say, adding that animals kept in close proximity, like tigers at the Bronx Zoo that were infected, are more at risk.

Animals can catch the coronavirus, but that doesn't mean you need to keep your distance from the family pet.

Disease experts say the chance of your pet catching the virus from you or another pet in the neighborhood or at the park is tiny. If they do, the chance they get sick is smaller still. And the chance you catch the virus from your pet is close to zero.

Some instances of infection in domestic and farmed animals have prompted a volley of inquiries to veterinarians and animal-welfare charities from concerned animal lovers world-wide. But transmission between animals is rare, unless they are in prolonged and close physical contact like at a zoo or farm—an unlikely scenario for domestic pets.

"It's not like cats meet together in pubs," said Rowland Kao, professor of veterinary epidemiology and data science at the University of Edinburgh.

The coronavirus has infected at least 26 million people world-wide and Covid-19, the disease it causes in humans, has killed more than 850,000 people, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

The first case of an infected animal reported to the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health—known by its French acronym, OIE—was in February, when a dog quarantined in Hong Kong after its owner fell sick tested positive for the virus. In March, five tigers and three lions at the Bronx Zoo were found to be infected.

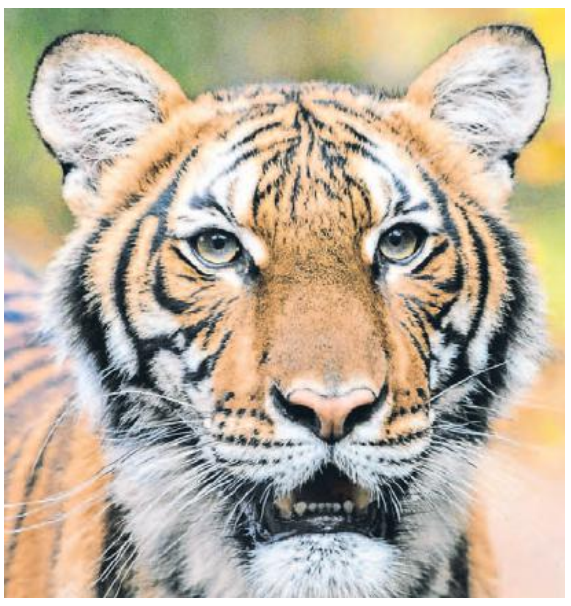
Domestic cats in Spain, France, Germany, the U.K. and Russia have been confirmed infected. So have cats in Illinois and Minnesota, and a dog in New York City. Laboratory tests have shown animals as diverse as macaques, ferrets and hamsters can also catch the virus. In all, the OIE has recorded roughly 20 individual cases, as well as some larger outbreaks among groups of animals living in close proximity, since the pandemic began.

In almost all these cases, public-health authorities concluded the animals became infected through contact with an infected human—an owner, household member or, in the case of the Bronx Zoo, a zookeeper.

Few animals get badly sick. The cases recorded with the OIE list symptoms including cough, wheezing, some loss of appetite and mild digestive issues.

And there are no recorded instances of pets passing on the virus to humans.

"The main message here is that even if pets get it they are unlikely to get sick, and there is so far no evidence that an infected pet can go on and infect a human," said Jenny Stavisky, assistant professor in veterinary medicine and science at the University of Nottingham in England.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES; RICK KINTZEL/TNS/ZUMA PRESS; ASSOCIATED PRESS

That animals can catch the pathogen shouldn't surprise us, animal-disease experts say. Seven viruses in the coronavirus family are known to infect humans, including the one that causes Covid-19. Animals, though, are hosts to thousands. The virus that causes Covid-19 is believed to have jumped to humans from an animal in China, possibly a bat, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The most severe outbreaks among animals have been on mink farms. In the Netherlands, the virus was detected among mink at two farms in April. Since then, outbreaks have occurred on more than 40 farms, prompting the government to order a cull of some 1.5 million animals. Ministers in August decided to bring forward a planned ban on mink farming to the spring of next year from 2024.

An examination of the genetic code of virus samples suggested two mink farm workers may have contracted the virus after exposure to infected animals. That fueled concern the farms could act as a reservoir for the virus to ricochet back into humans, said Wim van der Poel, professor of emerging and zoonotic viruses at the country's Wageningen University, who has researched the outbreaks. Other farms have been told to report any signs of respiratory illness among animals, and to implement strict biosecurity measures to try to prevent infection, such as protective gear for workers and keeping all manure on site.

For pet owners, the CDC advises treating the household dog or cat as any other family member during the pandemic: Don't let them interact with people outside the household, and if someone within the household falls ill, isolate them away from others, including pets.

If you do contract the virus, get someone who isn't infected to care for your pet, if possible, while you isolate and recover, said Douglas Kratt, a vet in Wisconsin who serves as president of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

If that isn't doable, then limit contact, however difficult it may be, he said. Resist the urge to nuzzle, hug or kiss your pet, and wear a mask as much as possible to reduce the risk of infection. Wash your hands frequently. Seek the advice of a vet if the animal appears unwell, though he said with respiratory infections it is often hard to tell.

"If they have a sore throat they're not going to tell us," Dr. Kratt said.

"What I'm seeing is really that folks are keeping their animals safe by keeping themselves safe," said Teresa Keiger, a judge and editor for the Cat Fanciers' Association who has bred Russian blue cats for more than 25 years. Some buyers picking up kittens are traveling by road rather than air to limit the risk of catching the virus, she said.

Ms. Keiger said the flip side of owning pets amid the pandemic is the comfort they bring owners during such a stressful time. "I think that our cats know that we need a bit of extra comfort right now."

Rosie Delaney, a freelance bookkeeper, welcomed two kittens to her London home amid the pandemic in late July. The 72-year-old said she's aware that pets can catch the virus, but she isn't too concerned. She plans to keep 14-week-old Linus and Lula-Mae at home for the rest of the year anyway until they have grown bigger and accustomed to their new home—though she said she may take them out occasionally on harnesses.

"Once I do let them off the leash I won't think about it, to be honest," she said.

LETTERS

Readers Share Hope, Worry For Lonely Elders

ISOLATION IN the pandemic is hitting elderly people especially hard, wrote Betsy Morris in a recent Wall Street Journal article. Many nursing homes and retirement communities instituted restrictions on visits and socializing in an effort to protect their vulnerable residents from the coronavirus, but loneliness and perceived isolation have also been linked to poor health outcomes.

Many readers wrote in to share their own experiences with these challenges. Below is a selection of reader responses, which have been lightly edited for length and clarity.

—Brandon Sanchez

Everyone who has a loved one in a nursing home, sadly, is enduring a truly awful separation. Truly awful. I will say this, though: My 91-year-old mother has always been a letter writer, and now more than ever, her skills have been put to the test. So, for me, writing the weekly letter to her has become a part of the new routine. As I remind her, she is on the "front lines" dodging the "bullet," and we, in relative safety, to boost her morale, will keep writing!

David McCann
Akron, Ohio

My 91-year-old mother, a lifelong amateur artist, lives in a large retirement community that imposed strict Covid-19 lockdown measures. She is a very social person, and I worried that the isolation and loneliness of the lockdown would have a negative impact on her health and, in particular, her mental well-being. So I wanted to figure out a way to help not only her but other seniors in her network to deal with the situation.

'For me, writing the weekly letter to her has become a part of the new routine.'

Over the course of 10 weeks in April, May and the first half of June, I curated what I call "Artmails" and emailed them to my mother on a daily basis. In each Artmail, I profiled a modern or contemporary artist, included some bio and my own brief commentary and embedded a number of YouTube videos of the artist's work. All told, I created 50 Artmails: one a day each weekday for 10 consecutive weeks, usually late at night after my day job. (Each one took me about three hours to make, but they typically take about 30 to 35 minutes to read and watch.)

My mother then shared them with a few of her senior-citizen friends. They were extremely popular among a handful of residents, and the positive feedback I received motivated me to keep going!

Peter Korzenik
Norwalk, Conn.

Olivia Grant hugged grandmother Mary Grace Sileo through a plastic barrier in May.

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

I am a geriatric physician in Los Angeles who makes house calls in assisted living and nursing homes. I have had over 60 cases and 30 deaths from Covid—but, at the same time, an equal number of deaths from general decline: poor appetite, falls, depression/suicidality. I have termed it "PRLD": Pandemic Related Lockdown Disease. It is much easier for agencies to pass guidelines and facilities to lock down than being creative in coming up with ways to interact, as well as the potential legal ramifications of a spread.

Matthew Lefferman
Los Angeles

I agree with everything you said. I am a medical director of nursing homes. But having said it, what is the solution?

I thought we beat it by isolating to keep Covid-19 out of the homes. We did well for a while. Then came warmer weather and reopening. Insidiously, 19 out of 21 staff who tested positive were asymptomatic. Despite every good intention and practice, I now have 31 residents positive and four deaths so far. I am heartbroken.

So we throw it open? It might work with the Covid-19 survivors.

There will be more cases and more deaths among the non-infected. It is difficult to isolate everyone as we have wanderers, so contact tracing is elusive. Would families unanimously court the risk to end the isolation?

We continue to pray for an effective vaccine that could be the solution.

Henry Lewis
Gainesville, Ga.

ANATOMY OF A WORKOUT | JEN MURPHY

A Pro Drill That Can Work for You

The USWNT head of performance breaks down the importance of working all planes of motion

Ellie Maybury, seen on a soccer field in Chicago.

TAYLOR GLASCOCK FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (7)

The human body moves three-dimensionally, even if exercise more often focuses on moving forward and backward on what's called the sagittal plane (think running or lunges). But complete exercise means also working the body side-to-side (frontal plane), as well as rotational movements (transverse plane).

Soccer players change direction constantly.

"We have to train players to run, sprint, jump, rotate, turn and kick, all through different planes of motion," says Ellie Maybury, head of performance for the U.S. Women's national soccer team.

Before joining U.S. soccer in 2016, Ms. Maybury worked for four years at the Football Association in England as a sport scientist for all of the youth women's national teams.

This fitness expert emphasizes mobility and stability in her work with the U.S. team.

In training camp, Ms. Maybury incorporates exercises that focus on mobility (flexibility and range of movement) and stability (strength and control of movement) in all three planes of motion.

You don't have to play soccer to reap the benefits of these exercises, Ms. Maybury says. "They are transferable to movements executed in everyday life, from bending to pick something up off the ground to rotating to move an item from one location to another," she says.

Head to WSJ.com to find a package of five drills that can provide a total-body workout. The routine incorporates a range of mobility and stability exercises, including the lunge matrix shown here.

The initial movements lay the foundations by utilizing stationary exercises to mobilize the hips and pelvis in all three planes of motion, Ms. Maybury says. The exercises gradually increase in intensity and become progressively more dynamic, through the inclusion of single-leg balance and plyometric exercises, to challenge your control and balance.

The three-part lunge matrix drill detailed here can provide a leg workout on its own, Ms. Mabury says.

Ms. Maybury, head of performance for the U.S. women's national soccer team, displays the exercise on the sagittal plane, top, frontal plane, middle, and transverse plane, bottom.

The Workout

Lunge Matrix

Why: Soccer players are constantly zigzagging to move the ball up and down the field. In real life, we find ourselves lunging in all planes of motion. "These three movements can be considered one full repetition per side." Perform 5 to 10 reps on each side.

How: To perform on the sagittal plane, step forward with your right foot into a lunge, reaching your hands down to knee height. Push off with the right foot to return to starting position. Switch sides.

To perform on the frontal plane, step sideways to the right and drop into a lateral lunge, reaching hands down to knee height. Return to starting position. Switch sides.

To perform on the transverse plane, step back to 5 o'clock and sit into a drop lunge, reaching hands down to knee height. Return to starting position. Perform on the opposite side by stepping back to 7 o'clock.

Options: Hold a weight or a ball. Reach overhead rather than ankle height.

ASK PERSONAL JOURNAL

WEIGHTLIFTING AT HOME

My gym reopened but I'm not ready to venture back. How do I start a weightlifting routine from my home?

Think about splitting up the workout by muscle groups.

GETTY IMAGES

The bottom line

Truth is, you don't need much. Dumbbells, a barbell and a bench are enough to start. The key is to create the time and space for your new routine. Pick a spot in your home, and a time of day that is off limits to everything else—kids, work, chores, or other potential distractions. Make sure everyone in your household knows that these 30 minutes are yours and you don't want to be disturbed.

The details

To save space, consider buying instruments that are weight-adjustable—such as these dumbbells from Powerblock or barbell from Bowflex—which allow pounds to be dialed up or down in increments. The alternative—multiple sets of different weights—can take up more room.

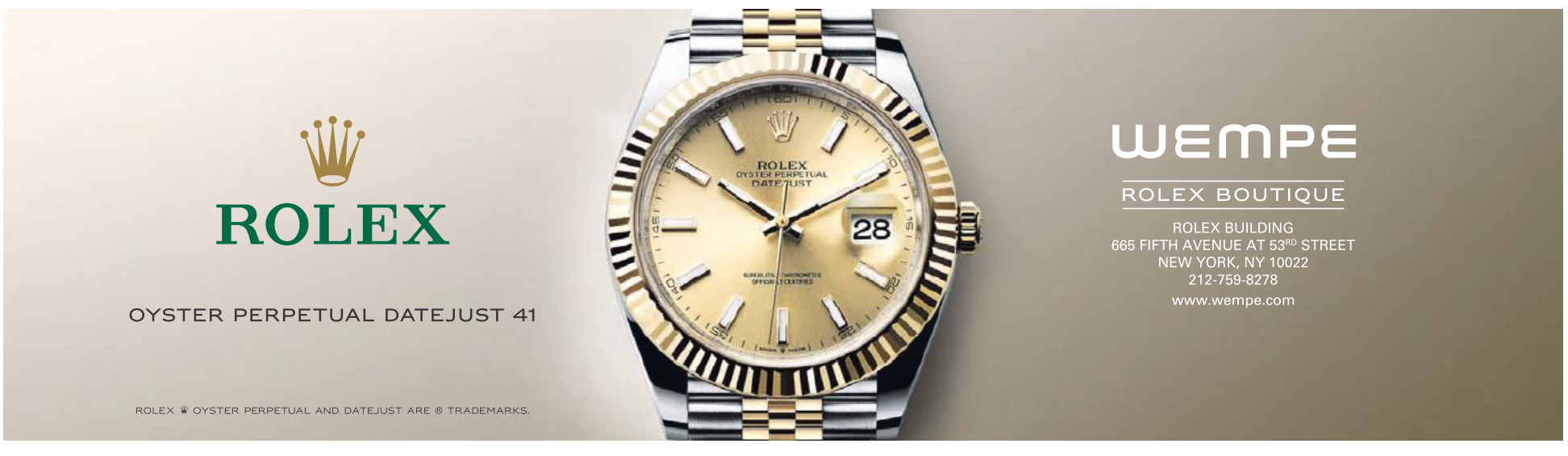
Next, set yourself up for consistency: Aim for a half-hour of weight training, three or four times a week, in between rest days. Think about splitting up the workout by muscle groups: One option could be legs on one day; then shoulders; back and biceps another day; then chest and triceps on the fourth day. Or, you could alternate days between lower body and upper body.

Former national and world champion powerlifter Warren Fahrenfeld suggests starting by picking just two exercises per body part: For legs, that could include squats (hoisting barbell on shoulders) and walking lunges (holding dumbbells). For the upper body, examples include bicep curls and bench presses which can be done either with a barbell or holding dumbbells. Mr. Fahrenfeld says to aim for five sets for each exercise; 10 to 15 repetitions per set; with 45 to 60 seconds of rest between sets. Before working out any new body part, pick one exercise at a low weight, 15 to 20 repetitions. "Just to get the blood going, and joints and tendons warmed," says the nutrition coach and personal trainer based in Township of Washington, N.J.

He says many clients feel they have to do lots of cardio activity before hitting the weights. "Do the opposite," he recommends. If cardio is desired for fat burning, do it afterward. That way, you're not hitting the weights sapped of energy, he says. And keep things uncomplicated. "Cardio can be as simple as just walking around the neighborhood," he says. In fact, he says it is best to start working out at an easy pace and work your way up to a more rigorous one. "Most people start out overtraining," he says, and then burn out.

If you're not ready to invest in equipment, try simple things around the house. Gallon jugs filled with water or grocery bags filled with canned goods can be used instead of dumbbells.

—Anne Marie Chaker



ARTS IN REVIEW

KIRAN AHLUWALIA

Drummer Michael Sarin, guitarist Rez Abbasi and keyboardist Neil Alexander, left; Mr. Abassi's Reinhardt-inspired record with the trio, 'Django-shift,' below

MUSIC REVIEW

Retuning a Jazz Guitar Legacy

On his album 'Django-shift,' Rez Abbasi offers muscular new renditions of the music of Django Reinhardt

By Martin Johnson

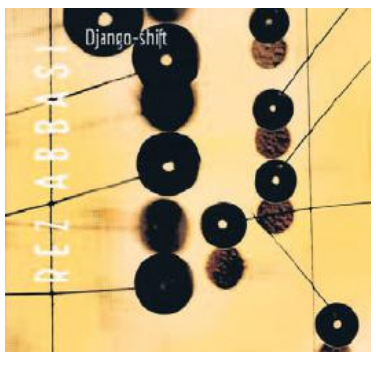
During the past decade or so, Rez Abbasi has established himself as one of the leading guitarists in jazz. The musician—who was born in Pakistan, grew up in California, and attended college in both Los Angeles and New York—has become known for innovative fusions of jazz with Indian and Pakistani musical traditions, as well as for unique approaches to soundtrack music and a recording where he shared the frontline with a harpist. But he pushes boundaries in other ways as well. On "Intents and Purposes" (Enja, 2015), he drew his repertoire from the electric jazz fusion movement of the early '70s but performed the music with his acoustic quartet. And now, on "Django-shift" (Whirlwind Recordings), he offers another set of reimaginings, playing the nimble music of guitar great Django Reinhardt with a brawny trio.

This project began in January 2019 with a commission for the Berkeley, Calif.-based Freight and Salvage Django Reinhardt Birthday Festival. Reinhardt (1910-1953), one of the founding fathers of jazz guitar, was a brilliant soloist and one of the first guitarists to lead a jazz band. Mr. Abassi felt that Reinhardt's composing skills were often overlooked and, after a thorough review of his catalog, chose seven originals and two standards ("Anniversary Song" and "September Song") that Reinhardt made his own.

Mr. Abbasi has become known for fusing traditions and drawing on an eclectic repertoire

"Diminishing," the first track on "Django-shift," begins with a sinewy intro from Mr. Abbasi before drummer Michael Sarin and keyboardist Neil Alexander kick in with sturdy support, yet Reinhardt's melody is crystal clear as the band embellishes it throughout the performance. "Swing 42" is slowed from the original's frenetic pace, which highlights the elegance of the melody. Then Messrs. Abbasi and Alexander engage in aggressive solos with Mr. Sarin's enthusiastic accompaniment. "Django's Castle" is faithful to the serene mood and easygoing tempo of the original, but the new version is deeper thanks to extended solos by Messrs. Abbasi and Alexander and subtle percussion from Mr. Sarin.

"Anniversary Song," a waltz by Iosif Ivanovici, undergoes one of the most radical changes. Mr. Abassi converts it into a noirish piece, with probing solos—his improvisation is a highlight of the recording—and abstract ensemble sections. Kurt Weill's "September Song" has been widely covered, and Reinhardt's rendition is distinguished by bravura guitar flourishes. Mr. Abassi turns it into a meditative duet for him and Mr. Alexander that seems to refer to the television and movie soundtracks on which the song has appeared.



Much of Reinhardt's music evokes the settings of its creation, the smoky cafes and nightclubs of Paris, while Mr. Abbasi's renditions recall more modern venues—the upscale jazz clubs and small performance halls where the music might have been performed this year in the absence of a pandemic.

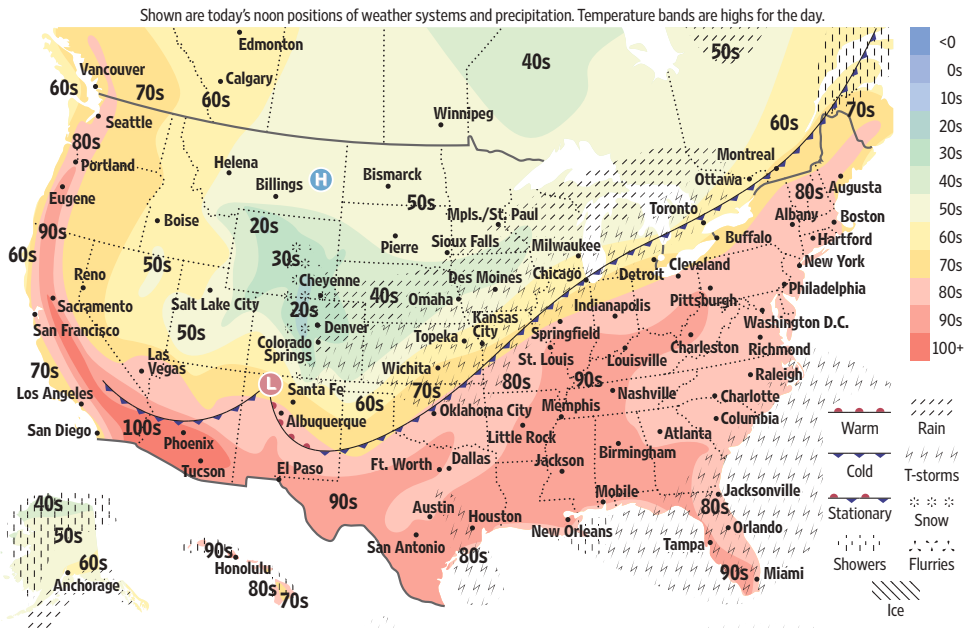
"Django-shift" adds to a growing number of recordings in the past five years that use classic repertoire as points of departure. Albums like Rudresh Mahanthappa's "Bird Calls" (ACT Music), Jason Moran's "All Rise: a Joyful Elegy for Fats Waller" (Blue Note), Adam Nussbaum's "The Lead Belly Project" and "Lead Belly Reimagined" (both Sunnyside), and Anna Webber's "Clockwise" (Pi) turn works in the canon into contemporary sonic portraits that mesh the old with the new. It is a wise tactic for Mr. Abbasi. Reinhardt's solos are extraordinary; copying them would be only slightly less ridiculous than copying Jimi Hendrix. In "Django-shift," Mr. Abbasi has found an exciting way to present legendary material in an up-to-date style.

Mr. Johnson writes about jazz for the Journal.

Weather

AccuWeather Plan your week | Get the NEW app

Shown are today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



U.S. Forecasts

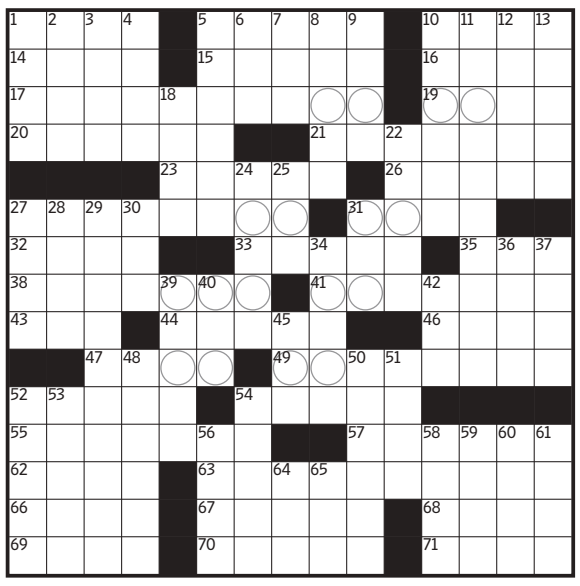
s...sunny; pc... partly cloudy; c...cloudy; sh...showers; t...t'storms; r...rain; sf...snow flurries; sn...snow; i...ice

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Tomorrow Hi	Lo	W
Anchorage	61	50	c	60	45	pc
Atlanta	86	70	pc	86	71	c
Austin	89	74	pc	88	70	t
Baltimore	86	68	pc	83	72	c
Boise	68	45	s	74	49	s
Boston	80	66	s	79	68	c
Burlington	81	61	pc	80	62	c
Charlotte	86	70	pc	82	71	sh
Chicago	67	60	t	68	59	c
Cleveland	82	63	pc	83	63	s
Dallas	89	72	t	82	66	t
Denver	37	28	sn	41	32	pc
Detroit	72	58	r	78	60	pc
Honolulu	90	74	pc	90	77	pc
Houston	92	75	t	90	75	t
Indianapolis	88	67	pc	89	65	pc
Kansas City	67	53	r	63	53	r
Las Vegas	85	61	s	82	64	s
Little Rock	90	71	pc	89	71	t
Los Angeles	88	71	pc	94	69	s
Miami	87	79	t	89	79	t
Milwaukee	61	53	t	61	54	r
Minneapolis	54	44	r	56	43	r
Nashville	92	67	pc	91	70	pc
New Orleans	91	79	pc	90	80	pc
New York City	83	69	pc	82	72	c
Oklahoma City	89	58	t	70	54	r
Omaha	51	45	r	53	47	r
Orlando	88	76	t	90	76	t
Philadelphia	87	69	pc	84	72	c
Phoenix	101	70	s	92	68	s
Pittsburgh	89	64	pc	89	66	s
Portland, Maine	78	63	pc	76	62	pc
Portland, Ore.	83	60	s	92	61	s
Sacramento	97	66	pc	93	60	pc
St. Louis	91	70	t	88	66	t
Salt Lake City	56	39	s	61	45	s
San Francisco	84	60	s	77	61	s
Santa Fe	76	37	pc	54	39	pc
Seattle	83	56	s	90	58	s
Sioux Falls	51	42	sh	55	41	c
Wash., D.C.	87	70	pc	82	73	sh

International

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Tomorrow Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	68	60	pc	70	51	c
Athens	93	78	s	90	75	s
Baghdad	116	81	pc	114	80	pc
Bangkok	93	78	t	93	79	t
Beijing	88	62	s	88	59	s
Berlin	69	58	pc	73	54	pc
Brussels	71	60	pc	72	53	c
Buenos Aires	62	56	pc	66	52	c
Dubai	101	87	pc	100	88	pc
Dublin	72	54	c	63	44	pc
Edinburgh	68	51	sh	61	46	pc
Frankfurt	77	52	pc	79	59	pc
Geneva	75	55	s	80	57	pc
Havana	89	73	t	88	74	t
Hong Kong	89	78	t	87	80	t
Istanbul	84	73	pc	83	71	s
Jakarta	93	75	pc	93	75	t
Jerusalem	89	72	s	89	71	s
Johannesburg	78	48	pc	79	49	pc
London	74	60	pc	74	48	pc
Madrid	81	54	s	85	60	s
Manila	92	79	t	91	79	t
Melbourne	71	49	c	62	44	pc
Mexico City	75	57	t	76	58	t
Milan	81	60	s	84	62	s
Moscow	64	48	r	62	50	pc
Mumbai	90	81	pc	90	80	t
Paris	77	59	s	79	60	s
Rio de Janeiro	80	72	pc	81	72	pc
Riyadh	107	80	pc	108	81	pc
Rome	87	68	s	86	66	s
San Juan	89	79	sh	89	79	sh
Seoul	79	65	s	77	64	r
Shanghai	96	76	pc	94	75	pc
Singapore	86	77	t	85	78	sh
Sydney	77	61	c	63	54	r
Taipei City	95	79	pc	94	79	sh
Tokyo	90	79	t	89	79	t
Toronto	64	56	r	71	56	pc
Vancouver	72	56	s	73	58	s
Warsaw	68	55	pc	72	61	pc
Zurich	74	51	s	78	52	s

The WSJ Daily Crossword | Edited by Mike Shenk



SEE IT THROUGH | By Trent H. Evans

Across

1 Online shopping help option
5 Hit it off
10 Distort
14 Tiny technology
15 Quinn of "Elementary"
16 In fine fettle
17 Run for novices
19 First name on Perry Mason book covers
20 Spot for linens
21 "E-I-E-I-O," for one
23 Caribbean resort
26 Pretentiously sophisticated
27 Left the band
31 "The Grapes of Wrath" migrant
32 Operatic piece
33 Duke or duchess, e.g.
35 "___ I ask you?"
38 Rap genre
41 American Greetings logo
43 Cancel key on a PC
44 It's up for debate
46 Cracked a bit
47 Gymnast Korbut
49 Financing option for the cash-strapped
52 Machismo epitomizers
54 Internet connection
55 Stalemate
57 Perplexing puzzle
62 Long, long time, in London
63 Superpower represented by this puzzle's circled squares
66 Clydesdale gait
67 Cliffside rubble
68 One of about 700 in the Bahamas
69 Goof, like tihs one
70 Congressional figures
71 Crockpot creation

Down

1 "Squawk Box" network
2 Heist take
3 ___ Domini
4 Lots and lots
5 2020 presidential candidate Julián
6 Rap's ___ Nas X
7 Altar affirmative
8 "It's a Wonderful Life" director Frank
9 Strike zone's bottom
10 Shepherd, formerly of "The View"
11 Place to spot bows, belts and blows
12 "Black-ish" star Tracee ___ Ross
13 Itty-bitty
18 Affirmative votes
22 Like some UFO pictures
24 Forearm bones
25 Haunted house holler
27 It's earned by an earner
28 Historic periods
29 Chucklehead
30 Place for a price
31 Soccer game cheer
34 Beagle, borzoi or basenji, e.g.
36 Middle of a Caesar boast
37 2020 Oscar winner Laura
39 Talks with one's hands
40 LAX scanners
42 "Awesome, dude!"
45 Aduba of "Orange Is the New Black"
48 Simple shelter
50 "John Wick" star
51 Four Seasons competitor
52 "Slow Turning" singer John
53 Abrasive powder
54 Souvenir swag, slangily
56 Austin festival canceled for 2020
58 Egyptian goddess of fertility
59 General idea
60 Burrowing mammal
61 Once again
64 Shapiro of NPR
65 "I reckon that's true"

▶ Solve this puzzle online and discuss it at **WSJ.com/Puzzles.**

Previous Puzzle's Solution

R	A	J	■	■	S	A	M	O	A	■	D	U	P	E
A	L	I	T	■	A	L	O	F	T	■	E	S	A	U
M	E	M	O	■	C	O	T	T	O	N	B	A	L	L
■	■	■	P	O	C	K	E	T	■	M	E	T	I	M	E
A	G	A	T	E	■	S	O	S	■	S	O	R	E	R
C	E	L	L	O	S	■	■	U	S	S	R	■	■	■
T	O	M	E	■	L	A	N	C	E	■	S	P	A	S
O	D	E	■	■	A	H	O	R	A	■	■	R	U	T
N	E	R	D	■	C	A	G	E	R	■	M	E	T	A
■	■	■	I	N	K	S	■	■	S	C	A	M	O	N
S	C	H	M	O	■	H	A	S	■	B	R	I	S	K
O	R	O	M	E	O	■	K	L	U	D	G	E	■	■
F	O	R	E	L	A	D	I	E	S	■	I	R	O	N
T	W	A	S	■	T	H	R	E	E	■	N	E	R	O
Y	N	E	T	■	S	L	A	T	S	■	■	S	E	W

The contest answer is MIAMI. As suggested by the clue at 68-Across, the grid contains five three-by-three blocks that contain the names of U.S. cities: BALTIMORE, Maryland; POCATELLO, Idaho; ANCHORAGE, Alaska; CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts; and FORT WAYNE, Indiana). The initial letters of the states spell the contest answer.

SPORTS

The Youth Sports Dilemma

Families have to answer for themselves whether their kids should play. Nobody knows if they're right.

By Ben Cohen

DOMINIC BUGATTO

Sahil Gandhi wasn't sure what to do when the adults decided last spring that it was time for teenagers to play baseball again. A pandemic could shut down the global economy, but it wasn't enough to stop the American youth sports machine.

Sahil is a pitcher who plays almost every position for his travel baseball team in Atlanta, and this was supposed to be a glorious summer for 14-year-old athletes like him. But then something unexpected happened. He read his team's safety protocols. He talked to friends about masks and risks. The more he thought about it, the less he wanted to play.

"I'm not supposed to go out of my house, but I'm going to baseball?" Sahil said. "That didn't make sense to me."

There were few teenagers more qualified to make this decision than Sahil. He didn't need to experience a pandemic to start listening to public-health experts. He's been listening to them for his entire life: His parents happen to be infectious disease epidemiologists.

Neel Gandhi and Sarita Shah, who are colleagues at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health in addition to being husband and wife, spend almost every waking hour these days thinking about Covid-19. Dr. Gandhi speaks in the measured tone of a scientist who strives to follow the data wherever it leads him, and that was especially important when the human variables were his own children: a son who was excited about the baseball season and a daughter who couldn't wait to get back on the soccer field.

Their teams would keep playing—but without the Gandhis.

"We didn't feel like it was safe for us," Dr. Gandhi said. "We felt that we should make the decision that we're most comfortable with as a family."

This is a conversation happening in living rooms across the country. The agonizing calculus of risk tolerance is an equation that each family must solve for itself.

The Gandhis decided to stay home. Some of their best friends sent their children back to soccer practice. Everyone hopes they made the right call. Everyone fears they didn't.

"We really do get that it's really complicated," Dr. Shah said.

"This is our choice," Dr. Gandhi said. "But I wouldn't tell any family that they're making the wrong choice."

Parents are split. The chance of their kids and teenagers developing severe illness appears to be low, but experts say the greater danger is a young person contracting the virus and passing it to more vulnerable people around him. They also have to consider the mental health of their children. The most recent survey from The Aspen Institute's Project Play in June showed that 44% of parents felt comfortable sending kids back to elite travel and club teams, while higher percentages felt better about school sports (51%) and individual sports (69%).

Athletes have the choice to play or not to play, and teams have promised that decisions won't be held against them. Most elect to play.

But there are exceptions on almost every team in professional leagues, college athletics and youth sports, who have looked at the same data and come to a different conclusion.

The first problem with youth sports in a pandemic is that there is no way to play in a bubble. Weekend tournaments bring together children and parents from all over the state for an extended amount of time. Outdoor sports are better than indoor sports, and certain parts of the country have lower rates of infection than others, but the pooling of people also pools risks.

The second problem is what happens when kids are not playing sports. In between games, they eat lunch. They linger inside and savor the air conditioning. They use public restrooms. For all the safety regulations at tournaments and hand sanitizer in the dugouts, one asymptomatic teenager forgetting his mask or splitting chips and salsa with teammates is enough for the virus to spread.

The restart of youth sports amid this uncertainty brought a wrenching choice for many kids and parents who never imagined having to think so hard about playing sports. Sahil wanted to play. He wasn't sure he should.

His travel baseball team in Atlanta—a city with the highest rate of public-health experts per capita of perhaps anywhere in the world—was supposed to begin practicing in March. The start was delayed until April. Then it was pushed again to May.

Sahil, a New York Yankees fan like his father, wasn't on the field when his team returned. In a series of interviews this summer, Dr. Gandhi worried that his son would get left behind—or get blacklisted. The economics of youth sports are built on such anxiety.

"I fear that there is peer pressure for parents, too," he said. "If practices are happening and my child doesn't go, are they going to get less playing time in the fall or spring or whenever down the road?"

Nearly six months after baseball season ended abruptly, with the school year starting remotely, fall baseball is right around the corner. That meant it was time for another tough call in the Gandhi household. They decided that baseball could wait until next year.

Sahil is sticking with tennis and golf.

JASON GAY

How Does Novak Djokovic Rally From His U.S. Open Bounce?

Yeaaaaahhh ... you can't do that.

In the end, it doesn't matter if Novak Djokovic meant to do it or not—and he says he wasn't trying to hit a line judge with a tennis ball at the U.S. Open on Sunday—you just can't do that.

Djokovic struck a ball in frustration, the ball hit a judge, she frighteningly tumbled to the ground, and even if he didn't see her there, or says it was an accident, a terrible mistake, it's still considered a punishable no-no—enough in the minds of tournament officials to send Djokovic, the Open's No. 1 seed, shockingly home.

"We all agreed he didn't do it on purpose, but the facts are still that he hit the line umpire," the Open's tournament referee, Soeren Friemel, said at a post-match news conference. "And the line umpire was clearly hurt."

In case you're mounting a furious defense of Djokovic in the Court of Tennis Court Second Opinions, be advised: Your client Nole has pleaded *nolo*.

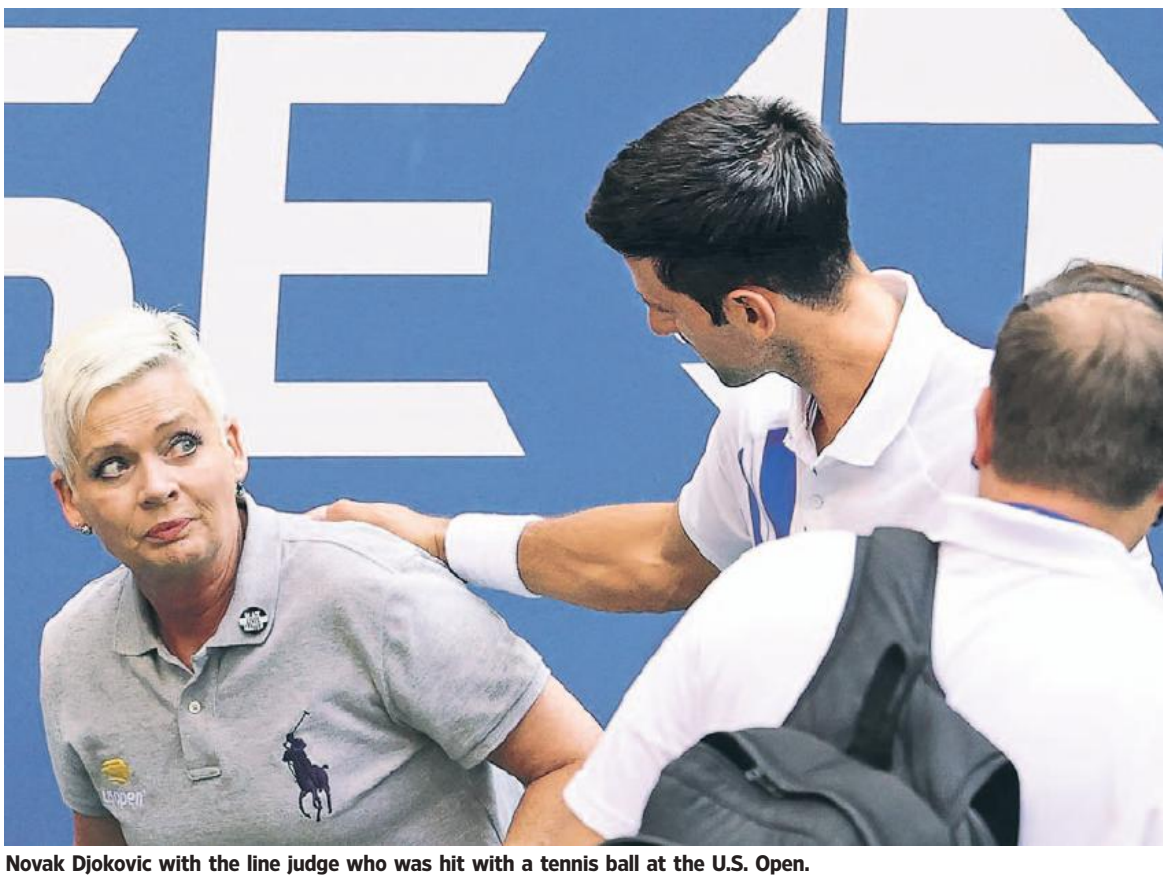
In a contrite Instagram statement issued after his default, the World No. 1 offered no excuses.

"This whole situation has left me really sad and empty," Djokovic's statement read. "I checked on the lines person and the tournament told me that thank God she is feeling ok. I'm extremely sorry to have caused her such stress. So unintended. So wrong."

"I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being. I apologize to the [U.S. Open] tournament and everyone associated for my behavior."

As sports apologies go—as any apology goes—that's not bad. What happened Sunday was a self-inflicted professional humiliation, and credit to Djokovic for not doing the 21st-century usual: blaming everyone but himself.

What a weird, pandemic-edition U.S. Open. No fans, no towel service, no Rafa, no Roger, some scattered drama over Covid-19 testing, and now, Novak hitting the bricks with an epic unforced error. There is a silver lining—the men's singles winner will be a first-time major winner—but the first Covid-era tennis major has faced substantial headwinds. (If you work for the USTA, and you're up to four Honey Deuces a night, I understand.)



AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Novak Djokovic with the line judge who was hit with a tennis ball at the U.S. Open.

I know there are folks pointing out an apparent irony: that the pandemic U.S. Open is using the "Hawk-Eye Live" robotic line-calling service to officiate matches on most of its courts, in order to cut down on the number of people required to put the tournament on, and had Djokovic been playing his fourth round match against Pablo Carreño Busta on any court besides Arthur Ashe or next-door Louis Armstrong Stadium—the two courts that are still using old-fashioned humans—he wouldn't be in this situation.

Which I guess is true. You know what's also true? Novak Djokovic doesn't play tennis matches at the U.S. Open out in the sticks. He's not playing Hawk-Eye Live on Court 13.

Djokovic is the best men's tennis player in the world, and has been for a while. He's won five of the last seven major tournaments—Wimbledon 2018, U.S. Open 2018, Australia Open 2019, Wimbledon 2019 and Australia 2020—and is up to 17 majors, two behind Nadal (19) and three behind Federer (20). He's got a lifetime winning record against both of those all-timers.

He flies in the highest possible airspace. Only a fool would dispute the depth of Djokovic's talent, his all-around skill, his outrageous athleticism and court coverage.

And yet Djokovic is consistently put in a corner next to Nadal and especially Federer. His matches against the latter have a distinct WWE vibe, with Djokovic installed as the heel. While some of this tension is overbaked—everyone plays the heel when pitted against the wildly-beloved Federer—it is awkward to watch the historically great Djokovic reduced to such easy villainy.

Which is why Sunday was a disaster, and he knows it. With Roger icing his knee and Rafa prepping for the French, this U.S. Open men's tournament had the potential to be The Novak Show, a stage largely to himself. He'd been playing very well (he'd won the Western & Southern tuneup, and had dropped one set thus far in the Open) and appeared to be enjoying his rabble-rouser status as a leader of an upstart players organization called the Professional Tennis Players Association. The folly of Djokovic's summer tennis exhibition in Serbia and Croatia, where he and several other players tested positive for Covid-19, appeared to be fading. He was a heavy favorite in New York, undefeated (26-0) on the year.

All of which makes this such an unnecessary fiasco. Djokovic's default was the kind of viral moment everyone heard about, even if they don't pay the slightest bit of attention to tennis, or to sports at all. Suddenly, he was back to Novak the Heel.

Here's the truth about heels: Heels only work when they want to be heels. Djokovic wants to be loved. He's a temperamental player with a self-destructive side, but he also has the potential to finish his career with more majors than any men's player ever. I've seen few athletes with a greater capacity to dig deeply in pressurized moments, yet at this point in his arc, he needs to locate more grace in his game. I suspect he realizes this. I keep going back to a sentence in Djokovic's apology: *I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being.* In the wake of a mortifying moment, it's valuable self-awareness. May it turn into wisdom.

OPINION

All the President's Norms

MAIN STREET
By William McGurn

Not even Donald Trump's most ardent supporters would deny that he has often disregarded norms of political behavior—from the derisive nicknames he uses to diminish political rivals to ill-advised tweets such as the one suggesting we delay the election. These are impossible to ignore, not least because when they happen the entire press and political establishment talk of nothing else for days.

So let us stipulate that the president is a serial norm breaker, and it's perfectly fair to call him out on it. But Mr. Trump's foes break plenty of norms themselves, justifying it because of, well, *Trump*—and then adding a lecture about civility on top. The latest example: Can anyone imagine a serious news publication running a story accusing Joe Biden or Nancy Pelosi of maligning the war dead with all anonymous sources?

The Trump-justifies-the-means rationale has been as poisonous for the nation as anything the president has done. Start with this: Has there ever been a norm violation more grievous than the way the Justice Department and FBI were politically weaponized to intervene in an election and then take down an elected president, built on a salacious Russian dossier commissioned by the Hillary Clinton campaign and lies to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court? Not to mention intelligence chiefs such as CIA Director John Brennan and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper who publicly painted the president as a Russian agent while privately testifying to Congress they'd seen no evidence for such a claim.

In the Age of Trump, calls to change any norm seen as working in the president's favor are frequent. Mr. Trump wins the election but loses the popular vote? Eleven Democratic candidates for president call for doing away with the Electoral College. Mr. Trump appoints jurists who don't believe in legislating from the bench? Sens. Kamala Harris, Kirsten Gillibrand and Elizabeth Warren propose packing the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Clinton, still sore about her loss in 2016, urges Mr. Biden not to concede in *any* circumstances. Trump Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh is accused of gang rape and we are told about our obligation to believe the women as the allegation is splashed all over the news, but when a former Senate staffer accuses Mr. Biden of sexual harassment, it turns out you don't have to believe that woman, or even pay attention to her. Meanwhile the speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, launches an impeachment inquiry of the president without a floor vote authorizing it.

Or remember in February, when Mrs. Pelosi ostentatiously tore up her copy of the State of the Union on her podium? Or how anyone wearing a MAGA hat is automatically a racist, including a high school kid wearing one to a pro-life rally? Or Rep. Maxine Waters calling for people to confront Trump officials wherever they're found—at restaurants, shops, or a gas station—and create a crowd to harass them?

Trump haters wage a war on standards and use his bad behavior as an excuse.

So long as a norm violation works against Mr. Trump or his supporters, it gets a pass. That's mostly because the institution that should be holding violators accountable, the press, has abandoned even the pretense of objectivity with anything Trump.

The most recent example came Friday. The president held a press conference in which reporters rightly peppered him with tough questions about everything from the attempted assassination of Russia's opposition leader, to whether America is making as much progress against Covid-19 as he says, to whether he regretted saying John McCain was no hero.

The same day, Mr. Biden held one of his (infrequent) press briefings. This time, it was all softballs. Most reporters simply asked him to expand on how awful Mr. Trump is, starting with the first question, which asked Mr. Biden to give his take on Mr. Trump's soul.

We've been seeing this for years. Where was the press skepticism about the Steele dossier or the whole Russia collusion narrative? Can anyone remember headlines about norm busting when Americans learned the FBI agent accused of altering a document for a FISA court had declared himself part of the "resistance"? Or when a text revealed the FBI's lead investigator into the Trump and Clinton campaigns telling his FBI lover that they will "stop" Mr. Trump from becoming president? Against this, the standard rhetorical excesses likening the president to murderous totalitarians—Trump is Hitler, Trump is Stalin, Trump is Mussolini—look almost quaint.

The critics will say this is all whataboutism. But that's not an answer, it's an evasion. If norms are norms, they apply to everyone. Unfortunately, as my colleague Kim Strassel notes in her book "Resistance (at All Costs)," the reigning standard of the Trump norm busters is this: "You either hate the man, or you are as bad as the man."

The new approach to norms was signaled in the thick of the 2016 campaign, in a front-page New York Times op-ed by Jim Rutenberg. In it Mr. Rutenberg asked whether "normal" standards should apply to Donald Trump.

Plainly we have our answer: No.

Write to mcgurn@wsj.com.

Russia and China Wield Dull Wedges

GLOBAL VIEW
By Walter Russell Mead

One of the biggest concerns experts have about President Trump's foreign policy is that by alienating key allies like Germany, it offers China and Russia an opportunity to divide Europe from the U.S. Yet while trans-Atlantic tensions have worsened since 2016 and public opinion in key European countries has turned sharply against the president, there are few signs Russia or China are effectively capitalizing on the moment.

On the contrary. Far from severing the ties between the U.S. and Europe, China and Russia seem to be strengthening them. The poisoning of Alexei Navalny—Vladimir Putin's chief political rival—so outraged the German public that Chancellor Angela Merkel is coming under renewed pressure to shut down the controversial Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project. Moscow is evidently preparing to double down on support for embattled Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko, even as Europeans cheer the peaceful public protests against his rule.

China seems to be trying even harder to make itself unpopular across Europe. The emergence of more horrifying details about Chinese treatment of Uighurs, Beijing's crackdown on Hong Kong, and its threats against Taiwan have roiled Europe's powerful human-rights lobby.

When Czech Senate President Milos Vystrcil led a 90-person delegation to Taiwan last week, China's Foreign Ministry condemned the visit and Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned that Mr. Vytrcil would pay "a heavy price" for his temerity. Mr. Vytrcil's speech before the Taiwanese Senate was provocative. "I am Taiwanese," he said in Mandarin, consciously echoing John F. Kennedy's speech in Berlin at the height of the Cold War.

The gap between the major European countries and China widened noticeably last week: France called for a European effort to develop homegrown 5G technology rather than relying on Huawei, and Germany adopted an "Indo-Pacific" strategy that will reduce its reliance on China. Both French and German officials reacted angrily to China's threats against the Czechs.

These events suggest several conclusions. The first is that neither China nor Russia is ready to do what it would take to pry Europe and Washington apart. In part this is because, as Americans well know, Europe demands a high price for its support. For Beijing or Moscow to meet European demands on everything from climate change to human rights would require changes that neither is willing or perhaps able to make.

The second is that the trans-Atlantic alliance will remain bound by the same powerful force that creates many international bonds: a sense of common threat.

They push the U.S. and Germany closer together rather than driving them apart.

Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin did not like or approve of each other, but they worked together because of a mutual fear of Nazi Germany. Ms. Merkel is not fond of Mr. Trump and vice versa, but both can recognize an overriding common interest. A smoother diplomat in Washington or a more flexible government in Berlin might ease the path for trans-Atlantic cooperation, but diplomatic tact isn't what holds the alliance together.

The third is a helpful reminder that our adversaries are not 10 feet tall. The U.S. makes its full share of mistakes in foreign policy, and America's European allies have also been known to drop the occasional stitch. But despite the supposed advantages that a secretive and authoritarian government is said to provide in foreign policy, antidemocratic powers are fallible too. One problem is that autocratic governments get so used to bullying and intimidating their people that they fail to grasp how counterproductive such tactics can be when deployed overseas. At home, critics of an authoritarian regime can be easily cowed; foreign governments are less easily forced into compliance.

Finally, there is the somewhat less encouraging observation that both Russia and China feel relatively unconstrained at the moment. With the U.S. consumed by election politics and domestic polarization, and the European Union still divided and slow-moving, neither Moscow nor Beijing seems to fear consequences for its reckless behavior. The rest of 2020 could have a few more nasty surprises up its sleeve.

All of this suggests that Russia and China will continue to anger and alarm their neighbors and the world at large. And much as the bluster and bullying of Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II strengthened the encircling coalition that he feared, so China and Russia are driving much of the rest of the world into a defensive alliance.

Dad, Please Get a Covid Shot

By Marc Siegel

Sen. Kamala Harris suggested Saturday that she might refuse a vaccination for Covid-19 because "I would not trust Donald Trump." My father, 96, feels the same way about Gerald Ford. "No way," he says when I tell him I hope he gets the new shot as soon as it's available. "I got the swine flu vaccine in 1976. I was in bed for three days, and my memory hasn't been the same since."

That fiasco has fueled many anti-vaxxers since. More than 40 million people received a rushed, flawed vaccine against a virus that never emerged, and at least 500 cases of the paralyzing Guillain-Barré syndrome were linked to it, along with thousands of cases of other unreported symptoms like my father's.

This time at least the epidemic—and the need for a vaccine—is real. Of the more than 30 vaccines currently in clinical trials for Covid-19, three are in Phase 3, the final stage before approval, in the Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed. Factories are gearing up, and distributions centers have been instructed to be in place by Nov. 1. That's a good move even if the vaccine isn't ready to distribute by then. The last thing we need right now is a bureaucratic delay.

You too, Sen. Harris. This isn't the swine flu; it's a genuine deadly pandemic.

The leading vaccine candidates—from BioNTech/Pfizer, Moderna, and Oxford/AstraZeneca—have all cleared early safety trials and shown a robust immune response. What remains to be seen is how safe and effective a vaccine will be when 15,000 volunteers receive it in Phase 3, vs. the response of 15,000 who receive a placebo. Anthony Fauci, longtime director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told me in an interview last week that the ultimate decision will be made based on whether a safe vaccine offers actual protection against this coronavirus.

According to Dr. Fauci, the Data Safety Monitoring Board could use this information to reach a decision even before the completion of the trials: "If you get a number of events, namely infections, and your trial happens to be focused in an area where you have it and you reach the predetermined number of events, you could get an answer before the trial is officially over."

The FDA could approve it conditionally, using an emergency use authorization. "That's the reason why you have data and safety monitoring boards. They intermittently look at the data for adverse events . . . and for data that is for efficacy. . . . Is it conceivable that you could get an answer in October? The answer is certainly. I think its unlikely, but I think we can get it."

Once we have a vaccine, the next challenge will be getting people to take it. This will involve considerable community engagement, outreach and transparency on the science, especially given the distrust of vaccines in some segments of society—apparently now including the Democratic presidential ticket.

I will try to convince my patients to overcome their fear and help them to recognize that the dangerous virus should be scarier than the vaccine. That's the only way to beat Covid-19.

Dr. Siegel is a clinical professor of medicine and medical director of Doctor Radio at NYU Langone Health and a medical correspondent for Fox News.

BOOKSHELF | By Gerald J. Russello

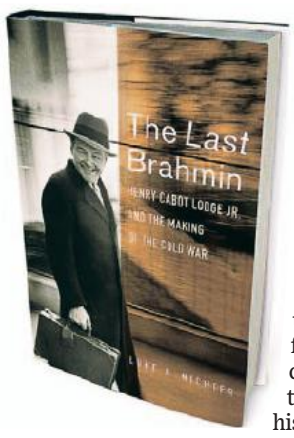
Why Was He In Vietnam?

The Last Brahmin

By Luke A. Nichter
(Yale, 527 pages, $37.50)

"I want you to know that if it will serve the United States, I am expendable. Just don't do it for unimportant reasons." This was former senator Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.'s response to President John F. Kennedy's 1963 request that he, a lifelong Republican, return to public life as ambassador to South Vietnam and serve in a Democratic administration. The Vietnam post was only one milestone in Lodge's *cursus honorum*—besides serving as a senator and ambassador he was also, at different times, a state legislator, a military officer, a vice-presidential nominee and a possible presidential candidate. For almost five decades, Lodge was at the center of American public life.

Luke A. Nichter's comprehensive biography sets Lodge's story amid the twilight of the WASP elite—the "Brahmins," meaning primarily that set of interrelated families in and around Boston—and of an America it's almost impossible to believe existed, where yacht clubs and boarding schools led naturally to public service. The Vietnam episode helped bring about the dissolution of their political class.



In "The Last Brahmin" Mr. Nichter, a professor of history at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, presents Lodge as a man who believed he owed much to the nation, and so believed the nation should use him as it saw fit. Lodge (1902-1985) descended from multiple old American families; there had been a Lodge in federal public service almost continuously since the Revolution. Lodge's father died when his son was 7, and his grandfather, Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge (1850-1924), became a strong influence on the grandson. The elder Lodge was a confidant of Theodore Roosevelt and a well-known center of opposition to Woodrow Wilson's League of Nations, which he considered a threat to American sovereignty.

Handsome, courageous, charismatic, an engaging public speaker, politically savvy and hardworking, the younger Lodge was elected to the Massachusetts state legislature in 1932, arguing that "the economic system should be changed to provide a better distribution of wealth," one that rewarded initiative but not greed, and one that protected those harmed by economic dislocation. Lodge championed improved worker conditions and civil liberties. He later called this combination "practical progressivism," but it was more a form of secularized Christianity applied to politics. His affability and wide network of contacts (recorded meticulously on index cards) represented that ease with other social classes possessed by the American ruling class at its best: His social status had not been achieved via meritocracy or mere chance, and he felt no need to guard it with snobbery. Lodge won a Senate seat in 1936, and meanwhile became a captain in the Army Reserve. In 1944 he resigned from the Senate to serve full time in the military, the first senator to do so since the Civil War.

Lodge would become a colonel, and Mr. Nichter depicts his experience in World War II as a turning point: He moved politically from the isolationism of the older elite to the internationalism of the postwar period. Lodge had campaigned for Wendell Willkie in 1940 on a program emphasizing "Americanism, preparedness and peace," and called proposals for internationalism "suicidal." By early 1941, however, after taking advice from his friend Army chief of staff George C. Marshall, he split with the Republicans—and his grandfather's principles—in voting for the Lend-Lease policy.

Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.'s conversion from isolationism to internationalism was emblematic of postwar shifts within the Republican party.

What Mr. Nichter does not quite explain is what led Lodge to continue this shift after the war. By 1947 he was advocating for the U.S. to take on the role of guarantor of world peace, and he thought it imperative that the country maintain armed forces abroad. Returning to the Senate after the war, Lodge formed part of the bipartisan "vital center" expanding America's superpower role. His positions alienated him from Sen. Robert Taft and others in the old-guard Republican leadership. In 1952, Lodge led the movement to draft Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in order to steer the party "in an internationalist direction," as Mr. Nichter terms it, and to take the Republican presidential nomination from Taft. This sealed the fate of the nationalist wing of the party.

The dramatic centerpiece of Mr. Nichter's account is the fall of the Diem government in Vietnam in 1963. In a conversation secretly recorded by Kennedy but not previously known to have been recorded by the president, Kennedy seems to give approval for Lodge to support a coup attempt against Diem. At the time, Diem was considered insufficiently strong against the communists and was becoming difficult to deal with. Elements within the State Department and the CIA thought that a group of generals would be more favorable to the American policy of resistance to North Vietnam.

Lodge was thrust into a volatile situation and did as well as he could to further what he understood as the national interest. He was careful to keep informed of what was happening but stayed at arm's length. He knew he was exposed both personally (armed staffers slept outside his room in Saigon) and professionally, since U.S. support for a coup was not public knowledge. And he knew that he was "expendable" if the plan went awry: Robert Kennedy and others later laid considerable blame for the coup and the worsening war at Lodge's feet. But Lodge never explained his actions in Vietnam, or indeed throughout his career. "Never tell them how you did it" is how he phrased his life in public service.

The Vietnam episode is emblematic of Lodge's life, and the dilemma of the American ruling class. Lodge comes across in this account as dedicated to American traditions and institutions, but those were irrevocably changed because of the internationalist shift he led. A nation organized around WASP dominance and a generic Christianity was transformed into a universalizing democracy facing off against the communists. Mr. Nichter makes a good case for the Brahmins, and laments that the U.S. has "lost more than it gained through the exit of these families from politics and public service." Perhaps; they did have strong virtues. But the country is bigger than Newport, R.I., Long Island, N.Y., and Boston. While Mr. Nichter chronicles Lodge's active role in the era, the reader still is left to wonder about the man's ultimate motivations, and what he made of it all. "Never tell them how you did it," indeed.

Mr. Russello is the editor of the University Bookman.

OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Will Courts Pick the Next President?

Georgia's voting deadline is unambiguous: Absentee ballots are due when the polls close on Election Day. Late arrivals are meant to be set aside, stored, and eventually destroyed without being opened. That's what state law says, and the way to protect democratic legitimacy in an anxious age is to run elections by the book.

If the election is close, the fallout could make *Bush v. Gore* look like an ice-cream social.

But in the Twilight Zone of 2020, everything is apparently up for grabs. Last Monday a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction that orders Georgia officials to count all ballots postmarked by Election Day, even if they don't show up until three days later. The suit was filed by the New Georgia Project, a group founded by Democrat Stacey Abrams. The judge expressed a reluctance to "interfere with Georgia's statutory election machinery," but she concluded that "the risk of disenfranchisement is great."

Similar litigation is taking place across the country. Pennsylvania's Supreme Court last Tuesday accepted a lawsuit filed by the state Democratic Party, and officials suggested last month in a separate case that ballots be counted if they arrive by Nov. 6, even if the postmark is missing or illegible. In Ohio, the League of Women Voters is challenging the process for verifying signatures. Minnesota has waived its rule that absentee ballots must be signed by a witness, and the state Supreme Court is weighing an appeal of that suspension, brought by President Trump's campaign.

If the presidential election is decided by a whisker, with Donald Trump or Joe Biden leading by some thousands of votes in a few states, a court ruling could prove decisive. The pivotal jurisdictions will be flooded with Republican and Democratic lawyers, and the resulting chaos could resemble the 2000 Florida recount, with smudged postmarks as the new hanging chads.

The simple fact is that mass mail voting introduces slack into the election system. Unrealistic deadlines are one problem. For an election held on Nov. 3, voters in 10 states can *request* an absentee ballot on Nov. 2, according to a report last week by the U.S. Postal Service's inspector general. During this year's primary season, the audit says, more than a million ballots were sent to voters in the seven days before an election, placing them "at high risk" of tardiness.

The Postal Service audit describes how seven USPS processing centers performed from April through June. About 8% of identifiable election and political mail, or 1.6 million pieces, was delivered late. Don't blame the new Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy: He took over June 15.

Some states try to factor in delays by counting ballot stragglers, up to 10 days late in Ohio, as long as they're postmarked by Election Day. Alas, the audit finds that "ballots are not always being postmarked as required." Ballots can also be rejected by local workers, who eyeball a voter's signature to see if it matches the version on file.

In this year's primaries, according to a tally by NPR, 558,032 absentee votes were tossed out. Al Gore won the nationwide popular vote in 2000 by 543,895. The discarded ballots this spring included 23,196 in Wisconsin, a state Mr. Trump won last time by 22,748. Some states give voters a week, or 14 days in Illinois, to "cure" bad signatures. Yet a study of Florida in 2018 found that mail-vote rejection rates were twice as high for black as for white voters.

The finagling over late ballots and messy signatures might stall the reporting of credible results. About a dozen states, including Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, don't begin processing absentee votes until Election Day, per the National Conference of State Legislatures. In the absence of a partisan skew, this might not matter. But a recent Journal poll says that 66% of Trump supporters intend to vote in person, compared with 26% of Biden backers.

* * *

On election night, the electoral map might suggest a solid lead for Mr. Trump that is eroded as mail ballots are canvassed. What if Mr. Trump reprises his tweet from six days after Florida's 2018 elections? "An honest vote count is no longer possible—ballots massively infected. Must go with Election Night!" Remember Hillary Clinton's advice this summer: "Joe Biden should not concede under any circumstances, because I think this is going to drag out."

The fight would probably drag out in the courts. Say it's mid-November, and absentee ballots are being counted in a key state. Although Mr. Trump retains a modest lead, mail votes are breaking 3 to 1 for Mr. Biden. Perhaps the law in this jurisdiction requires ballots to arrive by Election Day, so there's a pile to the side of thousands of late deliveries. Some are missing postmarks, and it's not clear when they were mailed. Thousands more have been discarded for suspect signatures, but the rejection rates are higher in urban areas.

The best way to prevent this democratic debacle is to act before things get that far. If states tighten ballot deadlines now and prepare to process mail votes before Election Day, it would cut the risk of an outcome that causes half the country to claim it's illegitimate. With each lawsuit that puts the count into the hands of judges, this nightmare gets more likely.

Jerry Nadler Loses to . . . Himself

Perhaps you've read, a thousand times, that the Trump Administration has illegally resisted Congressional subpoenas to block former White House counsel Don McGahn from testifying. Well, a federal court ruled on Aug. 31 that House Democrats are the party exceeding their legal authority (*Committee on the Judiciary v. McGahn*).

Readers may not have heard about this amid the clamor of the presidential campaign. But a panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that Rep. Jerrold Nadler's House Judiciary Committee lacked a "cause of action" necessary to enforce its subpoena. The committee wants Mr. McGahn to testify about President Trump and special counsel Robert Mueller, though Mr. Mueller had full access to Mr. McGahn's personal notes and referred on them in his 448-page report on the Russia collusion myth.

The legal simplicity of the majority opinion ought to embarrass Mr. Nadler and House lawyers. Judge Thomas Griffith didn't need to invoke profound constitutional principles. He merely had to point out, first, that Congress itself has never granted an express cause of action to enforce a subpoena to the House—only to the Senate.

"Second, the Senate statute expressly *excludes* suits that involve executive-branch assertions of 'governmental privilege,'" the judge writes. Perhaps Judge Griffith put "excludes" in italics because he was startled that a committee Chairman would sue without knowing the law. The judge observes dryly that "we should not ignore Congress's carefully drafted limitations on its authority to sue to enforce a subpoena."

Judge Judith Rogers writes in dissent that the House can properly infer a cause of action from its Article I powers. But this is the sort of claim that Democrats call a violation of the separation of powers when Mr. Trump invokes his inherent Article II authority. Judge Rogers may hope the liberal majority on the D.C. Circuit will take an appeal en banc, as they are increasingly doing in political cases.

But the plain language of the statute will be hard to overcome. Maybe next time Mr. Nadler, who is allegedly a lawyer, will pass a law giving the House a cause of action to enforce a subpoena before humiliating his committee and his branch of government in court.

A Carolina Victory for School Choice

Parents in North Carolina struggling to get their children back to the classroom have received some welcome news. The state Legislature's $1.1 billion Covid-19 relief package includes a provision expanding the state's school choice program.

GOP legislators call Gov. Cooper's bluff on Cares Act relief money.

The victory is all the more significant because the state's Democratic Governor, Roy Cooper, came into office vowing to eliminate the program. In late August he proposed taking $85 million from the Opportunity Scholarship program while spending $360 million for a $2,000 bonus for all public school teachers.

This debate concerned money from the unspent portion of the $4 billion that Congress sent to the state under the Cares Act. North Carolina Republicans who control the Legislature made school choice a condition of support for the bill, and the Governor had to sign or risk losing all those unspent federal dollars. As GOP state Sen. Rob Bryan put it, "no one really wants to vote against parental choice in this climate."

The bill expands the Opportunity Scholarship voucher program by raising the income limit for a family of four to $72,000 from roughly $63,000. It also lifts the caps on enrollment for kindergarten and first-grade students, which will now give 1,000 kids on the waiting list a choice. It allows the state's two virtual charter schools to enroll an additional 3,800 students.

It also includes $335 in "extra credit" grants to families with children that can be used for anything from private tutors to upgrading a WiFi system for better remote learning. Union-run public schools have no basis for complaint because the bill insulates school districts from budget cuts if they report a decline in enrollment.

North Carolina's decision comes as Covid-19 has exposed the union-first, students-last priorities of traditional public schools. Many union schools refuse to return to in-person learning, while charters and private schools are doing so. Parents worried about their children falling behind are learning that the union schools' take-it-or-leave-it approach leaves them without options.

"North Carolina's actions show what can be done when legislators, even in a state governed by both parties, are willing to put party loyalties aside," says Jeanne Allen, CEO of the Center for Education Reform. Let's hope more states follow North Carolina's lead.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reflections on College Teaching as Therapy

Joseph Epstein's "Today's College Classroom Is a Therapy Session" (op-ed, Aug. 29) highlighting the current obsession with "nurturing" by college faculty is disconcerting. My wife taught medical students a few years ago and was disturbed by their sensitivity. Someone in the class would become upset with an innocuous comment, no matter how carefully she tried to avoid controversy. Other friends in faculty positions at other institutions have related the fear of being targeted if they express their views and possibly be summoned to defend themselves before some disciplinary board. Sadly, they avoid any debate on political subjects as well as politicized scientific issues for fear of retribution. One commented that he is approaching retirement in a few years and his pension could be affected unless he avoided controversy and went along with the party line.

Fifty years ago during the initial lecture in a course on applied anatomy, the professor (a Dr. Habel) mentioned that there seemed to be the impression on campus that a professor should be your buddy. After another pause he shook his head and said: "I'm not your buddy." We learned quickly that he was tough but fair, if you studied diligently. We realized his primary concern was our assimilating the course material well to improve our knowledge and ultimately make us more proficient at our job. We were wise enough to realize we were being nurtured and were in a safe space.

MITCH TEDESCHI, DVM
Midlothian, Va.

Thirty-five years of teaching undergraduates has taught me that not all students respond well to "shame and fear." No doubt some do, or Mr. Epstein would not tell us so. To be "safe" means feeling able to contribute to complex classroom discussion. It isn't some namby-pamby need of snowflake post-millennials.

What, exactly, is wrong with a teaching style which "integrate[s] `methodological rigor, impactful engagement, and human sensitivity'"? This prizewinning Northwestern University instructor sounds worthy of her award rather than deserving of Mr. Epstein's derision.

R.A. HASKELL
Chapel Hill, N.C.

The focus must be on learning outcomes. Once we move from a teacher-centered approach to a learner-centered approach, college teaching effectiveness should address one crucial question: Did we achieve our learning outcomes? Let's agree on what we want students to learn, what they want to learn and what our greater society wants as outcomes, and stop focusing on the professor as the center of the room. Let's measure against the learning outcomes, not whether someone was a tough guy or a sweetheart.

DANIEL S. FOGEL
Huntersville, N.C.

Therapy looks inward. Education looks outward to the ideas, writings, discoveries and achievements of others over millennia, a vast and inspiring world. If education has one lesson, it is that trauma is a universal experience and every society does and has inflicted plenty of it—and some societies like the U.S. aim to inflict as little as possible. If therapy has one lesson, it is that by a temporary process of self-examination, educated "victims" can learn to let go of the past and go out into the world as competent survivors. College professors who take pride in attending to each psychological injury or issue of their students are denying the intellectual development that they will need if they have trauma severe enough to require therapy. They are in fact disabling those they claim to help.

E. MORGAN, M.D., PH.D.
Cary, N.C.

I was critiquing a presentation of one student when another student interrupted with the following: "You can't say that to us, it's not good for our self-esteem." That was 16 years ago, so those students would be about 36-40 years of age today. I do wonder about their current state of self-esteem.

MIKE BASSETT
Wellington, Fla.

Free Speech, Wrong Speech and Ivory Towers

In "Free Speech Absolutism Killed Free Speech" (op-ed, Aug. 31), Tony Woodlief asseverates that one reason the academic commitment to free speech has declined is due to free speech advocates' unreflective tolerance of ideas that are either morally or factually outlandish.

Mr. Woodlief raises a serious point that calls for a more precise and thoughtful defense of vibrant free speech in academic contexts. Such a defense is already in place in academia, but it needs to be reinvigorated. First, the right to express an idea does not mean the right to have that idea respected or acted upon. Indeed, the marketplace of ideas loses its connection to truth if we neglect the obligation to check and critique bad ideas and false claims.

Second, there is the vital distinction between "academic freedom" and freedom of speech more generally. Academic freedom applies to speech in such formal settings as research, the classroom and hiring sessions, where standards of reason and empirical validation must prevail along with the unshakable commitment to protecting ideas germane to the topic at hand. Astronomy departments do not teach astrology, for example. Nor may a physics instructor teach political organizing. Outside these contexts, the right of campus free speech is properly much more wide open. In my view, the two realms should nourish each other at the same time that they must remain distinct.

Today's increasingly politicized higher education too often compounds the problem by dishonoring both freedom and standards of truthfulness.

EM. PROF. DONALD A. DOWNS
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Verona, Wis.

Tony Woodlief wants professors to stop teaching ideologies that aren't "reasonable" or "coherent" and should be "put to rest." But who gets to make those judgments? Better not to teach any ideology at all. American universities used to focus on disciplines like biology and linear algebra and, yes, classical economics that try to show students how the world actually works. These were, in Karl Popper's phrase, "falsifiable." Ideologies don't share this quality.

ADJ. EM. PROF. STEPHEN M. MAURER
University of California at Berkeley

Stop All Idiocy About Ben Franklin and Washington

Regarding your editorial "Benjamin Franklin, 'Person of Concern'" (Sept. 2): Ben Franklin, too? The mere conceptualization of this ridiculous study by Mayor Muriel Bowser and her bureaucrats should in itself render the District ineligible for statehood. But if they decide to "relocate" the Washington Monument, I want to watch.

DOUG WOLFF
Cincinnati

Now that Washington, D.C., has discredited Benjamin Franklin as a "person of concern," I am volunteering to be a collection point for all tainted currency bearing his name and image.

ARTHUR MILLER
Athens, Ga.

If the mayor were to actually adopt such a silly, dystopian and racist proposal, it would clearly be time for Congress to revoke the Home Rule Act and reinstitute full federal control of the District of Columbia.

DON W. CROCKETT
Washington

Letters intended for publication should be emailed to wsj.ltrs@wsj.com. Please include your city, state and telephone number. All letters are subject to editing, and unpublished letters cannot be acknowledged.

A Quick Way to Reduce Drug Prices, Increase R&D

The letters of Sept. 1 ("Trump's Better Deal for Pricing U.S. Drugs") are too narrowly focused in that they don't mention the U.S. as one of the very few countries that allows prescription-drug advertising. Ban that advertising and pharma research budgets could likely double.

GLEN FREIBERG
Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"Can I start you off with an anti-depressant?"

OPINION

The Fed Puts Its Independence on the Line

By Kevin Warsh

America's Founding Fathers are having a very bad year. Their names sullied. Their likenesses defaced. The principles they pronounced attacked. Of greatest consequence, the institutions at the core of our republic are being tested.

Commentators tend to anthropomorphize the most prominent independent government institutions: the Roberts Court and the Powell Fed. The person atop is regularly glorified or vilified. Yet the institution matters more than the person. Liberal democracy relies on the strength and resilience of longstanding entities, especially when popular sentiment is running hot and circumstances are grave. People in positions of power are flawed, the Founders warned, so the institutions in our government must be robust, resilient and responsible. Our finest institutions are well-designed, rich in tradition and humble in orientation. They must defend themselves against unexpected shocks that can harm them and those they are charged to serve.

The central bank is on a one-way path to a larger role in our government and economy.

The Supreme Court is an independent institution that has long faced political and social scrutiny. Its decisions, however divided and divisive, are the unquestioned law of the land. The court's doctrine of stare decisis (deference to precedent) and the lengthy appellate process serve as bulwarks. Its foundation is laid firmly in Article III of the Constitution. And its powers are restrained by the Constitution's other six articles.

The Federal Reserve rests on less-settled ground, so its success and survival are less certain. America's two prior experiments with an independent central bank failed. The Fed's recent centennial celebration is only a mark of longevity, not a guarantee of permanence.

The Fed's formal authority comes from a congressional statute. The real source of its power, however, is more diffuse and fleeting. Since Chairman Paul Volcker's tenure (1979-87), the Fed has developed a strong institutional culture: an apolitical bearing, a resistance to whims, a durable record of ensuring price stability and a strong sense of collegiality and mission. Its successes—whipping inflation in the Volcker era, encouraging a productivity surge in the Greenspan era (1987-2006), responding with imagination and acuity to the financial crisis in the Bernanke era (2006-14)—have enhanced its power.

Yet the Fed's recent errors are equally clear. It came into the past two major shocks as surprised and ill-prepared as the economy it oversees. The Fed missed the decadelong window between the 2008 crisis and this year's pandemic to prepare and reform. Its policies are predicated on a typical business cycle. Yet unanticipated shocks put the Fed at far greater distance from its employment and inflation objectives than normal downturns do. The Fed needs a robust ex ante plan to mitigate economic harm from major shocks.

Beginning in 2011, the Fed made a big institutional bet on a benign forecast. It wagered that the long period of relative prosperity would continue without another shock. The global financial crisis of 2008 would be the great aberration to the Great Moderation; the long period of relatively stable output and inflation would continue uninterrupted.

DAVID GOTHARD

As recently as this January, Fed leaders assured the public that even if the economy weakened significantly, the policy mix of the 2008 crisis—rate cuts, purchases of Treasurys and agency securities, and forward guidance—would ensure financial and economic stability.

Then the pandemic hit. The economy collapsed and financial market prices followed. The Fed was on the precipice of losing its hard-earned credibility and vaunted status. With few good options, it was compelled to double down. It made low interest rates lower and its big balance sheet bigger.

That wasn't enough. The 2008 playbook of shock and awe had become too routine to provide sufficient stimulus this time. So the Fed crossed red lines that had stood for a century. It backstopped private corporate bonds and public municipal securities, including some with dodgy prospects.

In his address at last month's Jackson Hole conference, Chairman Jerome Powell unveiled the conclusions of the Fed's new policy regime: Inflation has been running too low for a decade. Monetary policy has long been too tight. The monetary spigot must be opened wider to get to a higher average inflation rate.

If the economy does well in coming quarters, I expect the Fed will expand significantly the scale, scope and duration of its asset purchases. If the economy weakens or financial markets fall, the Fed will do even more. This is what political scientists call path dependency. When an institution sticks to a path for so long, it finds its options limited, detours difficult and exits infeasible.

The Fed is on a one-way path to a larger role in our economy and government. On the current trajectory, the Bank of Japan might be the model for Fed policy: a large buyer of public stocks and an indistinguishable partner with fiscal authorities. The unimaginable can become the inevitable.

What has been the response to Fed flexing? Most on Wall Street are thrilled. They quite like stimulus for all seasons and all reasons. The Fed will buy assets others don't and pay prices others won't. Even if the central bank were to pull back its support for corporate and municipal bonds, traders believe it would step up again in a pinch.

Main Street is rightly more circumspect about the Fed's largess. Interest-rate cuts have a much more direct and significant effect on the real economy than the latest Fed machinations do. But there is no room left to cut interest rates. And Main Street firms are receiving far less fiscal and monetary support than Wall Street.

Bipartisan majorities in Congress are praising the Fed's expanded role. The Fed's growing purchases of the government's expanding debt lowers the costs of fiscal spending. Mr. Powell's apolitical demeanor and relationship-building efforts with lawmakers have provided the institution with substantial leeway. But elected representatives can be fickle. If the last crisis is a guide, the recriminations will come once the panic recedes.

For now, the Fed sits atop the commanding heights of the economy—its growing authority unquestioned, its pride manifest. But over time, citizens in a constitutional system tend to grow wary of omnipotent institutions.

The Fed is exercising understandable but unprecedented power at an ahistorical moment. Without vigilance, it will risk morphing into a general-purpose government agency. America cannot afford to have its central bank lose its independence, gravitas and record of success. To paraphrase Ben Franklin on the institutional challenge: a central bank, if you can keep it.

Mr. Warsh, a former member of the Federal Reserve Board, is a distinguished visiting fellow in economics at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

The 'Resistance' Sows Distrust in the Electoral Process

FREE EXPRESSION
By Gerard Baker

We live in an age of hyperactivist journalism and supercompressed news cycles, one in which eager leakers inside the Trump administration are primed to run to the nearest reporter every time they hear something they don't like. So the cynical reader can be forgiven a little skepticism when a story about an event that is said to have happened nearly two years ago surfaces two months before a presidential election.

We have no way of knowing if President Trump said those cruel things on his trip to France in 2018 about military veterans who died at war, as four anonymous sources told the Atlantic. Given some of the cruel things the president has uttered before, it's surely possible, though reporting did once require a slightly higher evidentiary standard than "it's the kind of thing he would say, so it must be true."

But the timing is certainly interesting, The revelation came the day before the first ballots were sent to voters, at a moment when Democrats, including Joe Biden, have been putting it about that the military might be needed to forcibly eject Mr. Trump from the White House were he to refuse to accept the result of the election.

Chances are this rhetorical extremism is just that. The specter of tanks on the White House lawn is for now just another of the devices Democrats are using to scare people into voting in large numbers for Mr. Biden.

But the level of distrust in the political process is higher than ever. With mail-in voting expected at record levels, and practiced mostly by supporters of the Democrats, the chances are good that Mr. Trump will lead after votes submitted in person are counted the night of Nov. 3, only to have the win seized from him as the postal votes are counted over the next few days. It's a slim hope that this gets resolved in a rerun of the meticulously litigated *Bush v. Gore* (2000).

There's a larger crisis of legitimacy that haunts this election and beyond. Democracy rests on the fragile foundation of consent—primarily the consent of the losers to the outcome of an election. If the losers feel that they have been cheated, that the winners have played by a set of rules that have redefined politics in their own narrow interest, the losers may withhold their consent. The fragile foundations are eroded further.

The specter of tanks on the White House lawn is one more scare tactic intended to delegitimize Trump.

It's this, rather than specific concerns about mail-in ballots or voter suppression, that is the largest threat to postelection America. To a large number of the president's supporters, Mr. Trump's defeat in November would represent the political validation of a yearslong extraconstitutional effort to discredit, delegitimize and ultimately destroy him.

Many of those voters may come to think that the long campaign of protest accompanied often by street violence and intimidation succeeded in persuading enough voters to heed the warning by Mr. Biden that the unrest will continue unless Mr. Trump is defeated.

They may believe that state governments and mayors politically opposed to the president have in many places manipulated a public-health crisis for their own political ends: enforcing lockdowns that suppress economic activity in the hope of weakening the president's support and creating the impression that only a vote for Mr. Biden would alleviate the suffering.

Looking further back over this presidency, they may conclude that the law-enforcement arm of the federal government was used to target Mr. Trump and his team in an unfounded investigation that consumed the first 2½ years of his administration and forced the removal and conviction of some of his key political allies.

They may suspect that influential figures in the permanent bureaucracy, the intelligence community and the military undermined the president at critical times, selectively leaking information designed to weaken his position and thwart his policy initiatives.

They will surely find that an almost monolithically one-sided press, which has abandoned even the pretense of objectivity, participated eagerly in all this, often backed by leaders of ever more powerful technology companies.

This is no ordinary case of a healthy pluralism at work in a vibrant democracy. Four years ago a resistance to the democratically elected president was founded. Embraced by some of the most powerful figures in civil society and government, who simply refused to consent to the election result, it has done its job. The risk in this election is that it may have spawned ever more resentful and determined successors.

I Hope American Soldiers Read Stars and Stripes Forever

By Seth Lipsky

It's nice to see that tweet from President Trump that "America will NOT be cutting funding" for the GI daily Stars and Stripes. He was responding to reports that Pentagon budgeteers were going to shut the paper down by the end of September for the lack of $15 million. Even Congress protested.

I'm not here to plump for subsidies for Stripes, even though it ranks among the greatest newspapers of all time. If the government doesn't want to support the paper, my instinct would be to see if a private owner can make a go of it. Rather, my purpose is simply to savor Stars and Stripes.

During World War II, some wag supposedly quipped that Stripes was where the brass assigned those GIs who, if left to the regular Army, would contribute to the Allied defeat. It was a wry libel. Stripes was always plenty patriotic, but also independent, in the newspapermanly way.

The tradition that the paper would be reported and edited by enlisted men goes back, legend has it, to World War I. That's when the sergeant who was its managing editor got arrested in an argument over a comma—or, one version has it, for getting scooped by the Paris Herald. The officer who precipitated that catastrophe quickly realized his error, and freed the sergeant to get the paper out.

The sergeant was Harold Wallace Ross, who, no doubt finding postwar journalism weak tea, went on to found the New Yorker.

Stripes' most famous figure was its World War II cartoonist, Bill Mauldin, who created the archetypical GIs Willie and Joe. Those two hapless heroes exemplified the American grit that won the war. "I can't git no lower, Willie," Joe calls out in one strip, as he hugs the ground under fire. "Me buttons is in th' way."

Another classic shows Willie and Joe helping lead a group of prisoners through the rain and mud. The caption: "Fresh-spirited American troops, flushed with victory, are bringing in thousands of hungry, ragged, battle-weary prisoners. (News Item)." The gag is that Willie and Joe are themselves so ragged and battle-weary that it is hard to distinguish them from their prisoners. In 1945, that won Mauldin the Pulitzer Prize.

My own time on Stripes was during the war in Vietnam, where I served as a combat reporter. I've never been in a newsroom I didn't love, but it would be hard to beat the band that covered the war for Stripes.

The independent-minded military newspaper has patriotically told GIs' stories for 150 years.

One was an unassuming GI named Bill Toliver, who in civilian life had studied botany. One day in Saigon, he received a letter from his professor asking for help finding a rare—and poisonous—yellow flower that grows only in the remote Central Highlands of Vietnam. Spec. 4 Toliver borrowed a flower press from the University of Saigon and disappeared into the most dangerous hills in Vietnam. After a week of silence, we were preparing to report Spec. 4 Toliver missing in action when he walked into the bureau and proudly produced the poisonous petals. Stripes ran the story under the heading "Combat Botanist."

Stripes had the best headline writers I've ever encountered. One classic ran over a story about a conscientious objector medic—a religious Christian—who refused a weapon as he was lowered into combat to rescue any survivors from a downed chopper. The unarmed medic managed to get the wounded out, but when it came time to lift him out, he waved away his own chopper because it was coming under fire. Alone on the jungle floor, surrounded by the enemy, he could hear bamboo on fire going "pop, pop, pop."

What did he do? He kept "praying that Jesus Christ's will be done." His buddies came back to rescue him. Stripes ran out the story under the headline: "Trapped Pacifist GI Sticks to His 'Guns.' "

My favorite example of the spirit of Stripes involves two of its GI reporters, Spec. 4 Jack Fuller and Spec. 5 Phil McCombs. When U.S. and South Vietnamese forces plunged into an area of Cambodia known as the Parrot's Beak, they grabbed a station wagon from Stripes' circulation department and raced to the border in pursuit of American armor. Once inside Cambodia, though, they were met with an ominous sign—everything was deserted. They pressed on until they encountered, in a bombed-out village, an American officer poring over a map. He would answer no questions.

Finally, Spec. 5 McCombs asked, "How far can we go until someone kills us?" The preoccupied officer appeared to be doing the math in his head. "Eight klicks," he said, finally. The reporters jumped back into their station wagon and drove until they caught up with the American tanks—12 kilometers up the road.

That was the spirit of Stripes. The paper may have had its brushes with the brass and budgeteers over the years. In covering for American GIs their own astounding story, though, Stripes always went the extra klick.

Mr. Lipsky is editor of the New York Sun. As an enlisted man in the Army, he served on Stripes in Vietnam, 1970-71.

Notable & Quotable

From a Sept. 3 report by San Francisco's KNTV:

For months, the city of San Francisco health order has prevented local gyms from opening [their] doors, but some city-owned gyms have been back open for months and are allowing city employees to use them. . . .

"It just demonstrates that there seems to be some kind of a double standard between what city employees are allowed to do and what the residents of San Francisco are allowed to do," said Dave Karraker, owner of MX3 Fitness in the Castro.

He said there is a slight silver lining to this discovery.

"What the city has unwillingly done is created this great case study that says that working out indoors is actually safe," said Karraker.

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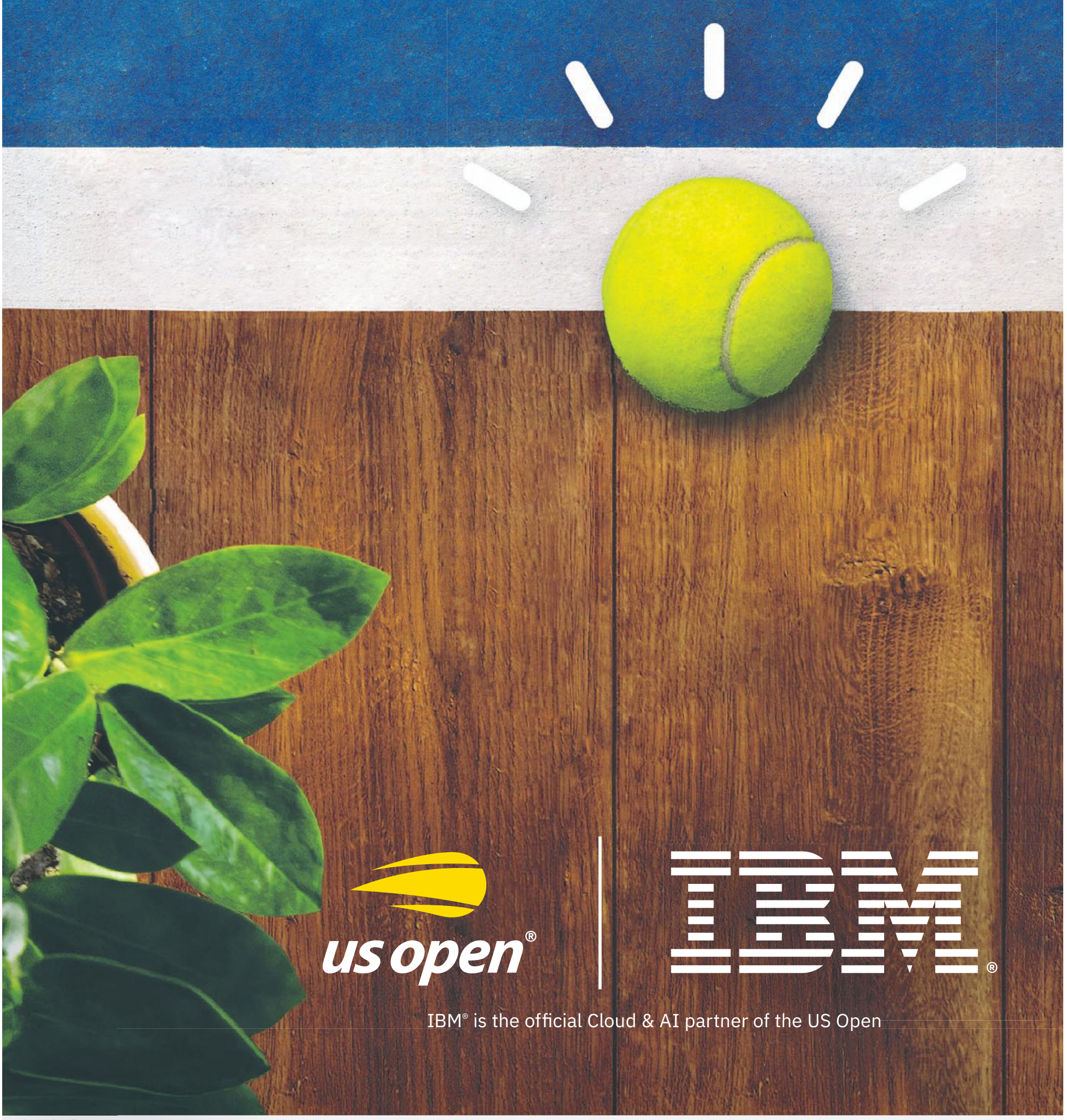

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PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY: OFFICE WATER COOLER IS RE-CREATED VIRTUALLY B4

BUSINESS & FINANCE

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Samsung Wins Big 5G Contract

By Elizabeth Koh

SEOUL—**Samsung Electronics** Co. has signed a $6.65 billion contract with **Verizon Communications** Inc. for network equipment and services, a major boost to the South Korean company's quest to become a key 5G supplier.

Samsung's agreement with Verizon runs through the end of 2025 and primarily covers 5G infrastructure, though it broadly includes network-equipment sales, installation and maintenance, according to a Monday corporate filing in South Korea.

Samsung declined to specify how much of the deal is directly related to 5G. Verizon didn't respond to a request for comment.

The Verizon deal could help bolster Samsung's credibility with carriers in an important year for 5G rollouts, especially in the U.S., analysts said. Adoption of the next-generation technology is expected to expand significantly after the expected launch later this year of Apple Inc.'s first 5G-enabled iPhone.

Global adoption of the next-generation phones has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic. Handset makers are already dropping prices for 5G devices, looking to entice skeptical buyers.

Among 5G network sales, Samsung ranks No. 4 with about 13% of the total market, according to market research firm Dell'Oro Group. The company trails the top three, which include China's Huawei Technologies Co. and the European firms Ericsson AB and Nokia Corp.

Huawei said early this year that it had signed more than 90 5G contracts, and Ericsson last month touted its 100th 5G "commercial agreement."

Samsung hasn't divulged how many 5G contracts it has signed. But the company has high hopes, having invested more than $30 billion in the U.S. market alone.

Samsung said in 2018 that it aimed to capture one-fifth of the global 5G market by next year. It is a key growth area for the South Korean conglomerate, along with advanced semiconductors and biopharmaceuticals.

The company's ambitions have been given a major boost by Washington's campaign to limit Chinese competitor Huawei, as the U.S. pushes allies to forego Huawei gear over national-security fears.

Verizon joined with Samsung long before 5G made its debut in smartphones last spring. In early 2018, the two companies teamed up for trial runs of 5G-powered home internet. Verizon officials have previously pledged not to use Huawei for its next-generation rollout. Samsung has supplied some network gear for prior generations including 4G LTE.

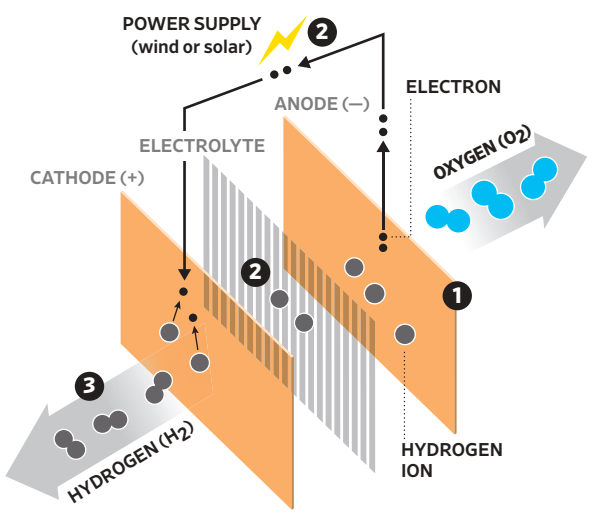
To Samsung, the deal represents a major 5G win. The contract, valued at 7.898 trillion South Korean won ($6.65 billion) over five years, compares with the roughly 5 trillion won Samsung's network business racked up in revenue in 2019.

Last year, 5G represented less than half of Samsung's network business, of which U.S. carriers accounted for 10%, said S.K. Kim, a Seoul-based analyst with Daiwa Securities.

Greener Energy

Utilities are using wind and solar power to create hydrogen from water using a process known as electrolysis.

How an electrolyzer works



1 Water molecules split at the anode into oxygen and positively charged hydrogen ions.

2 The electrons flow through an external circuit powered by renewable energy and the hydrogen ions move across the electrolyte.

3 At the cathode, the hydrogen ions combine with electrons to form hydrogen gas.

Source: Energy Department

DAN KRAUSS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is heading an effort to convert a power plant in Utah, to run on natural gas and hydrogen produced with excess wind and solar power.

Utilities Look to Switch to Green Hydrogen

By Katherine Blunt

U.S. utilities are increasingly exploring the use of what is called green hydrogen made from wind and solar energy to reduce emissions from power plants and pipelines.

The early investments by companies including **NextEra Energy** Inc. and **Dominion Energy** Inc. are expected to help commercialize a costly technology that has been slow to develop despite its ability to provide a steady source of carbon-free power. Utilities and policy makers are beginning to view the technology as necessary to support ambitious renewable-energy goals.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the nation's largest municipal utility, is spearheading a $1.9 billion effort to convert a coal-fired power plant in Utah to run on natural gas and hydrogen produced with excess wind and solar power. The plant, which serves numerous small utilities and electric cooperatives, has long been one of Southern California's most significant power sources.

The gas turbines, slated for completion in 2025, will initially burn a 30% hydrogen fuel mix. Within two decades, they are expected to run entirely on hydrogen to comply with a California law that requires the state's electricity supplies to be carbon-free by 2045.

"From a cost perspective, it doesn't compete with natural gas at this point," said Paul Schultz, director of external energy resources for LADWP. But he said the utility considers the conversion a long-term investment in changes that lawmakers and regulators are requiring.

And the price of green hydrogen is expected to become more competitive. "The costs are going to go one direction, and that's down," said Craig Wagstaff, Dominion Energy's senior vice president for Western gas distribution.

Hydrogen, which is used in a range of industries, is most often produced from coal or natural gas through carbon-emitting processes. The production of green hydrogen eliminates those emissions by using renewable energy to strip hydrogen atoms from water molecules through a process called electrolysis. Currently, 1% of the hydrogen produced is green hydrogen.

A relatively small number of electrolyzers were deployed

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◆ Heard on the Street: Coal gets a charge..... B10

Seed Curbs Unlikely To Stop Mailings

By Jesse Newman And Jon Emont

E-commerce giants are enacting new restrictions on the sale of seeds, but the moves are unlikely to eliminate the tactics government officials and industry experts suspect are behind the mystery seeds caper that gripped the world this summer.

Amazon.com Inc. is barring foreign sales of seeds into the U.S. and e-commerce company Wish will ban the sale of seeds.

Amazon said sales of plants from outside the U.S. would also be barred and some overseas sellers would have their offers removed from the site. A representative for San Francisco-based Wish cited an "ongoing threat to U.S. consumers."

The e-commerce companies' actions to restrict and eliminate seed sales came after thousands of people in the U.S. over the past few months received seeds by post they say they didn't order. Most were postmarked from China, and the shipments were often labeled as jewelry, toys or other goods. Canada and the U.K. are among other countries that have also experienced the phenomenon.

In discussing their investigations into the mystery seeds, U.S. officials have raised concerns about the ease of importing seeds online, citing threats to American agriculture posed by pests or diseases that such shipments could contain. E-commerce experts say that restricting online seed sales will

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Citigroup Feuds With Hedge Fund

Citigroup Inc. and a big hedge-fund client are locked in an uncharacteristically public feud that has embroiled top executives at both firms and laid bare a $900 million mistaken payment by the bank.

By Matt Wirz, Becky Yerak and Alexander Gladstone

At the root of the dispute: Citi's role helping billionaire investor Ron Perelman restructure the corporate loans of cosmetics company **Revlon** Inc. Some investors wanted Citi to bow out of the transaction; when it didn't, they blamed the bank for facilitating a deal that hurt their investments, according to people familiar with the matter and court documents.

Chief among those investors: $28 billion money manager **Brigade Capital Management** LP.

Until recently, Brigade and its founder, Donald Morgan, had worked closely with Citi. Brigade had hired Citi to help it raise at least $1.5 billion of new loan funds over the past two years, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence. The bank had also advised Mr. Morgan on potential merger-and-acqui-

Please turn to page B2

STREETWISE
By James Mackintosh

Where the Danger Is When Tech Rallies

It's been a terrible to be an **Apple** shareholder lately. Yet, after falling 8% on Thursday and swinging wildly to end flat on Friday, the price is back down to where it was two weeks ago.

Investors might reasonably worry that this is the start of a bigger correction. There was far too much enthusiasm for the big disruptive technology stocks, so prices could go down a lot more. Yet, there are still good reasons for liking companies whose growth has been helped rather than hindered by the pandemic.

To assess just how bad things could get, we should start by examining the warnings that have been flashing recently. I'll do that in this column, then in subsequent ones come back to the questions of what is likely to trigger a major reverse in these popular stocks, whether it has

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Airlines Fight For Passengers at All Costs

By Doug Cameron

Millions of passengers have yet to return to flying since the pandemic started, but cash-strapped airlines are showing they are ready to compete fiercely for those who do travel.

With demand stuck at roughly one-third of prepandemic levels, the industry faces a lean post-Labor Day season. This year, most of the travel linked to business conventions and family holiday gatherings just won't happen, airline executives said.

Airlines appear poised to fight for the business that is out there. **United Airlines Holdings** Inc.'s pledge last week to end change fees on most tickets was quickly matched by **American Airlines Group** Inc., **Delta Air Lines** Inc, **Alaska Air Group** Inc. and **Hawaiian Holdings** Inc. Relaxing domestic ticket-change fees will cost airlines hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue when passenger bookings start to improve, but it is a loss aimed at winning back customers. Meanwhile, competition is intensifying as airlines restore or expand flights on a limited number of popular routes.

"It does seem like airlines are trying to take a little bit of their neighbors' business," said Andrew Watterson, chief commercial officer at **Southwest Airlines** Co.

DAVID PAUL MORRIS/BLOOMBERG NEWS

United's pledge last week to end ticket-change fees was quickly matched by other major carriers.

United Chief Executive Scott Kirby said he doesn't expect demand to reach 50% of prepandemic levels until a vaccine or treatment becomes widely available, and the industry expects it could be three or four years before 2019 passenger levels are regained. Chicago-based United said Friday that it planned to fly 46% of its schedule in October compared with the same month last year. It is restoring service on 50 routes and limiting flying on quieter days by reducing frequencies, targeting customers seeking weekend getaways.

Among the flights being restored by the industry include those to Mexico and the Florida beach markets as well as destinations including Colorado that offer outdoor pursuits. Southwest is adding flights for the first time to Miami and Palm Springs, Calif., with American targeting passengers headed to Florida and Mexico. However, flying is being reduced to dozens of other cities as the industry shrinks.

United's move to kill change fees—at a time demand, flying schedules and passenger behavior are in such flux—is a sign airlines are taking competitive risks sooner than many investors expected, Stifel airline analyst Joe DeNardi said.

U.S. carriers are still burning around $6 billion in cash each month, according to trade group Airlines for America, and have responded by furloughing staff, retiring old planes and deferring new aircraft deliveries. Industry employment has fallen by over one-fifth to 400,000 since the start of the year, the Labor Department said Friday.

By itself, the loss of revenue from relaxing the fees is limited, and airlines have some relief from fuel prices, which are down about 40% from a year ago. Still, items like change fees, baggage charges and loyalty programs have

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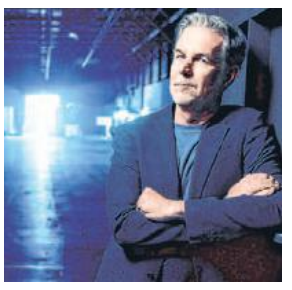
INSIDE



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

LARRY W. SMITH/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

The luxury retailer is poised to come out of bankruptcy having shed $4 billion of its $5 billion debt load.

Neiman Restructuring Approved

By Soma Biswas

A bankruptcy judge signed off on **Neiman Marcus** Group Ltd.'s restructuring plan, ending one of the first major chapter 11 filings after the Covid-19 pandemic forced thousands of businesses to shut their doors this spring.

"Neiman Marcus today will get a second chance to remake itself," the company's lawyer, Matthew Fagen of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, said at a hearing in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Houston.

The ruling came after the company's chief critic, hedge-fund manager Dan Kamensky, was arrested and charged in connection with his efforts to acquire a prized piece of Neiman's business while shutting down a rival bid.

The luxury retailer is poised to come out of bankruptcy having shed $4 billion of its more than $5 billion debt load. Neiman will have new owners, including **Pacific Investment Management** Co., **Davidson Kempner Capital Management** LP and **Sixth Street Partners** LLC. Pimco will be the largest shareholder, controlling three of the company's seven board seats, according to court records.

Investors traded debt for equity, wiping out much of the debt Neiman accumulated through two separate leveraged buyouts, the latest of which put the company in the hands of Ares Management Corp. and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board.

The company opted to hold on to the majority of its namesake stores in bankruptcy but to close most of its discount Last Call locations. Retailers often take advantage of the ease of breaking leases under the chapter 11 code to close unprofitable stores.

Neiman is estimated to be valued at more than $2 billion as it emerges from bankruptcy, according to documents filed by its banker, Lazard Ltd.

The bankruptcy proceedings took a turn Thursday, when federal prosecutors in New York arrested Mr. Kamensky, a bondholder who had waged a legal battle against Neiman and its owners since 2018.

He was charged with securities fraud for allegedly suppressing bids for MyTheresa, the retailer's prized e-commerce business. Mr. Kamensky is founder of hedge-fund firm Marble Ridge Capital LP.

Citigroup Feuds Over Payment

Continued from page B1

sition opportunities for Brigade in previous years, people familiar with the matter said.

Now Citi and Brigade are slugging it out in court, cutting ties and arguing over the return of around $170 million the fund received when the bank accidentally paid Revlon lenders about $900 million. Citi even took the extraordinary step last month of backing out of a nearly completed deal to arrange a $400 million collateralized loan obligation for Brigade as well as another deal that was in earlier stages, according to people familiar with the matter. This cost the bank about $1 million in lost fees, the people said.

"Though our fiduciary duty to our clients has put us into conflict with Citibank relating to their role as agent on the Revlon Term Loan, Brigade has not sought to limit any other business or trading activity with Citibank as a consequence of this specific disagreement," a spokeswoman for Brigade said.

The fight is an example of a big Wall Street bank caught between the competing interests of its corporate and investment clients. Years ago, banks typically served one group or the other. Today's megabanks are one-stop shops that serve clients across the financing and markets spectrum, sometimes leaving them in what can appear to be conflicted positions.

For Citi, the dispute, and especially the mistaken payment, have added to a string of missteps over the past decade, raised questions from analysts about the bank's internal controls and drawn the attention of regulators.

"The management team has acknowledged in the past that it had credibility issues, so it doesn't help that," said Brian Kleinhanzl, a managing director at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Inc.

Past examples include a fine in 2018 for failures in anti-money-laundering controls, the disclosure of large frauds in 2014 in its Mexican unit and a $590 million settlement in 2012 of a class-action suit filed in 2007 over alleged deceitful mortgage-lending practices. The bank has since invested in anti-money-laundering programs and this year appointed a new compliance chief and created a new role, chief administrative officer, to enhance safety and controls, according to a bank spokeswoman and memos from Citi chief Michael Corbat.

Meanwhile, Brigade finds itself in the kind of limelight that

JIN LEE/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Until recently, Donald Morgan, had worked closely with Citi.

Mr. Morgan, a former high-yield bond analyst, typically avoided. While Brigade was launched primarily as a hedge-fund manager in 2006 and sometimes plays an activist role at companies, the bulk of the money it now manages is in more traditional high-yield bond funds and collateralized loan obligations, or CLOs, some of the people familiar with the matter said.

Trouble between the two firms dates at least to April. A group of hedge funds led by Brigade, **HPS Investment Partners** LLC and **Symphony Asset Management** asked Citi to resign from its role as the agent responsible for administering a loan it had arranged for Revlon and then distributed to clients, according to people familiar with the matter and court documents. Symphony and HPS both declined to comment.

The lenders' beef? They believed Citi was helping Mr. Perelman's Revlon restructure its debt in a way that would depress the value of their investments and lower their odds of being fully repaid, according to people familiar with the matter and court documents. The bank helped Revlon with a separate transaction that gave it the votes needed to push the restructuring through.

Revlon has said it would vigorously defend itself against the "meritless" lawsuit. It said after the lawsuit was filed that the lenders have resorted to baseless accusations to try to enrich themselves and hurt the company by blocking Revlon from exercising its rights to secure the financing needed to turn around the company and navigate the Covid-19 crisis.

Mr. Perelman declined to comment.

Brigade's Mr. Morgan contacted Citi Chief Executive Mr. Corbat and Richard Zogheb, the bank's head of global debt capital markets, in late April, people familiar with the matter said. Mr. Zogheb said the bank would step down as loan agent and Mr. Corbat confirmed Mr. Zogheb was handling the resignation, according to the people and a lawsuit filed on behalf of Brigade and other lenders.

But days passed without Citi resigning. The bank felt it couldn't do so because the credit agreement with Revlon required it to first get consent from the company and appropriate instructions from lenders, a person familiar with the bank's thinking said.

In early May, Revlon completed the debt restructuring. In its wake, the loan held by Brigade and other investors fell to a value of around 32 cents on the dollar. It had been quoted by traders at around 70 cents before the transaction was announced, according to AdvantageData Inc.

The unhappy lenders began preparing a lawsuit accusing Revlon and Citi of fraud and breach of contract. They sued through an agent chosen to replace Citi, UMB Bank NA, in federal court in New York on Aug. 12.

The day before UMB did so, the fight took a surprising turn. Citi unexpectedly paid lenders back about $900 million of the loan's outstanding value.

That was a mistake, Citi says.

The bank said in a court filing it had planned to disburse only an interest payment it received from Revlon. Instead, it paid more than 100 times as much—out of Citi's own funds—because of a human processing error that wasn't caught in subsequent manual checks, according to the filing.

"We...recognize that an operational error of this nature is unacceptable," a Citi spokeswoman said. "We have put significant, additional controls in place until the new system is operational."

As soon as Citi realized its mistake, executives began trying to claw back the cash. Ish McLaughlin, the bank's top salesman in North America, sought return of the money from senior executives he knew at firms that received payments, people familiar with the matter said. Mr. Corbat also called fund managers, they said.

Some firms, such as **Carlyle Group** Inc., **KKR** & Co. Inc. and **Octagon Credit Investors** LLC, sent the money back, people familiar with the matter said. Brigade and others, still furious with Citi over the Revlon restructuring, refused and said the cash belonged to the clients invested in their funds, according to people familiar with the matter and court documents.

Mr. McLaughlin and other Citi executives threatened in August to sue anyone refusing to return the money, people familiar with the matter said. Some lenders offered to give Citi the money back on the condition that the bank would forfeit the funds if it lost in court. Citi refused, people familiar with the talks said. The bank ultimately sued Brigade and about a dozen other lenders that haven't returned the money.

Utilities Seek Green Hydrogen

Continued from page B1

globally through 2019. Many more are expected to be in use by 2025 as companies look for ways to cut emissions from power and gas supplies, transportation and other sectors, according to a report by research firm Wood Mackenzie.

In June, German engineering firm **Apex Energy Teterow** GmbH completed a green-hydrogen plant with a two-megawatt electrolysis system located near the Baltic Sea.

Growth in green-hydrogen production has been slow in part because it typically costs three to six times as much as hydrogen derived from fossil fuels, said Dan Hahn, who leads the global energy-providers practice for research firm Guidehouse. He expects costs could fall significantly within the next decade as production technology develops and policies are implemented that favor green hydrogen over that derived from fossil fuels. "We think that even in the next two to three years, costs will decrease because of the investments that are being made in the market," he said.

DAN KRAUSS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

A coal-fired plant in Utah is converting to natural gas and hydrogen produced with wind and solar power.

Juno Beach, Fla.-based **NextEra**, the nation's largest owner of wind and solar farms, earlier this year announced plans to invest $65 million in a project that will use excess solar energy to produce hydrogen for use in a Florida natural-gas plant. The 20-megawatt electrolysis system, expected to be online in 2023, will be used to replace a portion of the natural gas in one of the plant's three gas turbines.

"What makes us really excited about hydrogen...is that it has the potential to supplement significant deployment of renewables," Chief Financial Officer Rebecca Kujawa said in a recent earnings call. NextEra declined to elaborate on plans.

Dominion Energy, a Richmond, Va., company that provides electricity or natural gas to about seven million customers in 20 states, is planning to blend hydrogen into its gas-distribution system to reduce methane and carbon emissions. It is aiming to test a 5% blend at one of its training sites early next year, with the intent to incorporate it more widely and eventually increase the percentage of hydrogen in the system.

Airlines Fight for Customers

Continued from page B1

been largely immune from competitive pressures in recent years as carriers kept charges broadly similar, Mr. DeNardi said. Many network airlines added charges for things that were once free—including seat assignments and bags—matching the approach of fast-growing low-cost rivals such as **Spirit Airlines** Inc.

Mr. Kirby said removing the fees was the top request in customer surveys about what would encourage them to fly again. United collected $625 million in change and cancellation fees last year, or $3.82 per passenger, compared with $819 million at American and $830 million at Delta. Revenue from bag fees had been running at about twice that level.

Mr. Watterson said absent the sales from change fees, U.S. carriers may have to raise fares to cover the loss, equivalent to around 4% of their operating revenue.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY
NOTICE OF REDEMPTION
OF ALL OUTSTANDING SHARES OF

Cumulative Preferred Stock, par value $25.00 (the "Preferred Stock"), including
Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 4.32% - CUSIP No. 842400400 ("4.32% Preferred")
Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 4.08% - CUSIP No. 842400202 ("4.08% Preferred")
Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 4.24% - CUSIP No. 842400301 ("4.24% Preferred")
Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series 4.78% - CUSIP No. 842400509 ("4.78% Preferred")

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Paragraph 2(d) of Article Sixth of the Restated Articles of Incorporation of Southern California Edison Company (the "Company"), as filed with the Secretary of State of California on March 2, 2006 (the "Articles") that the Company has elected to redeem all of the outstanding shares of its Cumulative Preferred Stock at the redemption price set forth in the Articles.

All outstanding shares of Preferred Stock will be redeemed on September 27, 2020 (the "Redemption Date") at a redemption price equal to:

- $28.75 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends to the Redemption Date of $0.261 per share, for a total redemption price of $29.011 per share for the 4.32% Preferred,
- $25.50 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends to the Redemption Date of $0.0765 per share, for a total redemption price of $25.5765 per share for the 4.08% Preferred,
- $25.80 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends to the Redemption Date of $0.0795 per share, for a total redemption price of $25.8795 per share for the 4.24% Preferred, and
- $25.80 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends to the Redemption Date of $0.089625 per share, for a total redemption price of $25.889625 per share for the 4.78% Preferred.

On or prior to the Redemption Date, the Company will deposit with Equiniti Trust Company, as redemption agent ("EQ"), cash in the aggregate amount of the Redemption Price for all of the outstanding shares of Preferred Stock in trust for the account of the holders of shares of the Preferred Stock. EQ shall pay to the registered holders of the Preferred Stock the applicable Redemption Price, net of any withholding tax, upon presentation and surrender of the certificate(s) for such shares at the offices of EQ in accordance with the instructions set forth in a Letter of Transmittal sent to all holders of Preferred Stock. EQ's address is EQ Shareowner Services, Equiniti Trust Company, Attn: Account Management Team, 1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Suite 101, Mendota Heights, Minnesota 55120-4101.

Pursuant to Paragraph 2(d) of Article Sixth of the Charter, upon deposit of the aggregate amount of the Redemption Price with EQ, all shares of Preferred Stock shall be immediately deemed no longer to be outstanding for any purpose, and all rights with respect to such shares shall thereby cease and terminate, excepting only the right of the holders of the certificates for such shares to receive, out of funds so deposited in trust with EQ, the Redemption Price, without interest and net of any withholding tax, to which each is entitled.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, all shares of Preferred Stock represented by global certificates registered in the name of the nominee of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") will be redeemed, and payment of the Redemption Price for such shares will be made, in accordance with DTC's procedures and all other uncertificated shares held electronically will be redeemed automatically.

Date of Notice: August 28, 2020

SoftBank Stock Declines on Tech Bet

Japanese investing powerhouse bought options on up to $50 billion in stock

By Phred Dvorak

Shares in **SoftBank Group** Corp. tumbled 7% on Monday, as investors reacted to news of a bet the company has placed on a rise in tech stocks.

The size of the bet—which used stock options tied to as much as $50 billion in individual tech stocks, means SoftBank could win big if the market goes its way or lose a sizable down payment for the options if tech shares drop, as they did at the end of last week.

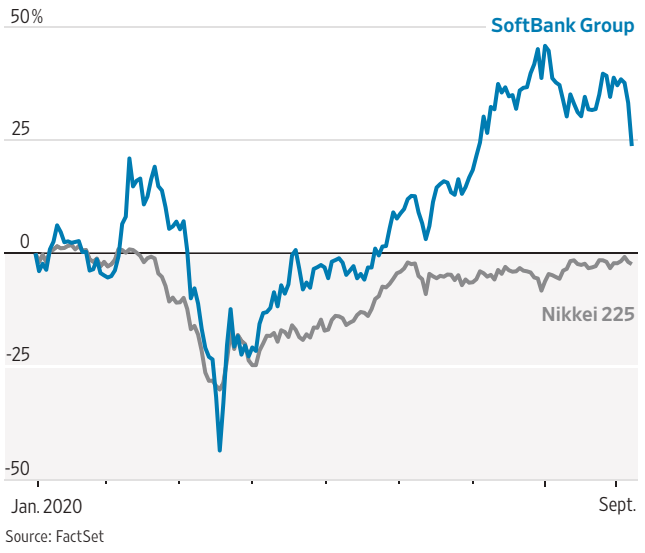
Details about the trade remain sketchy, so it is unclear how risky that bet is for the Japanese conglomerate. The company, best known for its $100 billion venture-capital vehicle, the Vision Fund, hasn't published any details of the trade. A company spokesperson declined to comment.

SoftBank shares fell to ¥5,881, or about $55, on Monday, pulling Japan's benchmark Nikkei Stock Average down 0.5%.

"The scale is what is concerning," said David Gibson, an analyst at Astris Advisory Japan. If SoftBank is betting on tens of billions of dollars worth of shares, "it's a change in the risk profile of the company."

SoftBank's billionaire founder, Masayoshi Son, built his reputation on making smart investments on fast-growing privately held tech firms. But last month he announced a new asset-management unit that plowed billions of dollars into the public markets as well. The bulk of the money has come from more than $50 billion in asset sales that SoftBank is executing.

SoftBank share price vs. Japan's benchmark stock index



Source: FactSet

Although much of that cash is earmarked for share buybacks or debt redemption, until those deals are completed SoftBank is parking the money in tech companies such as **Amazon.com** Inc. or **Microsoft** Corp. SoftBank held almost $4 billion worth of such stocks as of the end of June, according to regulatory filings.

SoftBank's aggressive use of its cash holdings to invest in the market isn't "usual in our corporate culture," said Pierre Ferragu of New Street Research. Most companies invest excess cash in Treasurys or corporate bonds. "It's very unsettling for investors," he said, until they know more details about the trade.

SoftBank may get little credit from investors. Even if they made $5 billion, "it's a one-off, you don't know what risk they've taken," said Mr. Ferragu.

Investors and options traders have been trying to piece together the contours of SoftBank's position through options data available to the market. Some institutional holders of SoftBank say the company is a sophisticated investor and is unlikely to be taking a lot of risk in the trade.

One possibility is that SoftBank's trade let the company bet on the direction of share prices while limiting the amount of money it could lose. Investors often do this by buying and selling options—contracts that confer the right to buy a stock at a certain price at a later date. For bullish bets, options let investors make money when the stock price goes up, while if it goes down, they would only be out the premiums paid to own the options. SoftBank likely also sold options at a higher price, further limiting its risk, investors say.

SoftBank's options bet was big enough, however, that people familiar with the trade said it represented billions of dollars in premiums. Some of that money could go to waste if the underlying shares didn't perform as expected.

—Paul J. Davies contributed to this article.

'Tenet' Opens in a Test Of Virus-Era Moviegoing

By R.T. Watson

U.S. movie theaters enjoyed their best few days since the pandemic shut down much of the economy, as the first major film in months opened with modest box-office returns.

Sci-fi spy film "Tenet,"—distributed by **AT&T** Inc.'s Warner Bros. studio—grossed $20.2 million in the U.S. and Canada through the long holiday weekend, according to preliminary estimates. Directed by Christopher Nolan, the $200 million film was regarded in Hollywood as having a solid chance of reviving the theatrical business. Mr. Nolan's last movie, "Dunkirk," grossed $50.5 million in its opening weekend in 2017.

Movie theaters around the world closed their doors as governments moved to contain the spread of the coronavirus; in the U.S. Hollywood's biggest studios canceled plans to release big-budget movies and almost overnight the few theaters still open lacked the high-profile films it takes to sell a significant number of tickets.

Theaters waited anxiously as Warner Bros. repeatedly changed its release plans for "Tenet" and public-health authorities shifted their guidelines for public gatherings. **Walt Disney** Co. canceled plans to release its live-action remake of "Mulan" in the U.S., opting instead to ship it to its Disney+ streaming service, where it became available over the weekend. The company hasn't said how many viewers watched it, at a cost of around $30 on top of a monthly $6.99 fee.

"We always knew this release plan would be a marathon not a sprint as we await openings in more markets and theaters," Warner Bros. said. The studio cautioned against judging "Tenet" against other film debuts, saying "any comparisons to the pre-Covid world would be inequitable and baseless."

Many nations have outpaced the U.S. in terms of reopening public spaces, so "Tenet" made its debut a week earlier in more than 40 international markets, where it made a total of $53 million in its opening weekend.

Major theater chains began reopening their U.S. locations last month, though they remained closed in several major population centers, including New York and California. Around two-thirds of domestic theaters have reopened, according to a recent estimate from Disney.

The movie earned an additional $58.1 million in overseas markets Friday through Sunday, according to Warner Bros., for a total $146.2 million globally. "Tenet" performed best in China, the world's second-largest theatrical market behind the U.S., where it made $30 million its first weekend, according to Comscore. China began reopening theaters in July.

JIM LO SCALZO/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

The long-delayed Warner Bros. movie 'Tenet' plays in an AMC movie theater in northern Virginia.

Comscore analyst Paul Dergarabedian said it is nearly impossible to assess the performance of "Tenet," as "traditional metrics simply do not apply."

Pandemic-driven closures have obliterated the year's box-office revenue. Heading into the weekend, with only four months remaining in 2020, domestic box-office revenue for the year stood at about $2 billion, according to Comscore. Last year, theaters in the U.S. and Canada sold $11.4 billion of movie tickets.

Most U.S. theaters that have opened are operating at reduced capacity, meaning fewer people can attend screenings. To compensate, many are showing "Tenet" on more screens than they normally would.

Ad Council
I didn't talk for a very long time
Jacob Sanchez
Diagnosed with autism
Lack of speech is a sign of autism. Learn the others at autismspeaks.org/signs.
AUTISM SPEAKS

'Fortnite' Seeks Return to Apple

By Sarah E. Needleman

The creator of "Fortnite" is taking another stab at getting a judge to bring the popular game back to **Apple** Inc.'s devices, this time disclosing that roughly a third of players access it through the tech giant's App Store.

Epic Games Inc. last week filed a motion seeking a preliminary injunction against Apple, reiterating arguments made in a federal lawsuit last month when it accused the tech giant of monopolistic behavior after pulling "Fortnite" from the App Store. The closely held software developer also sued Google for removing the game from its Google Play store the same day.

Apple and Google made that move after Epic introduced an in-game payment system that would skirt the 30% fee certain developers are required to pay the companies for in-app purchases.

Epic said that more than 116 million registered "Fortnite" players have accessed the survival-shooter game through a device running Apple's iOS operating system, making it the game's largest platform. Of those players, Epic said 63% only play "Fortnite" this way. The game has 350 million registered players overall, according to Epic.

CRISTOBAL HERRERA-ULASHKEVICH/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

While 'Fortnite' is free to play, Epic sells virtual goods inside it such as character costumes.

"Apple has driven a stake in the 'Fortnite' community," Epic said in its filing.

Apple declined to comment on Epic's latest filing. Apple has previously said Epic has put customers in the middle of their fight and that it hopes to work with the software developer in the future.

Epic's new filing comes ahead of a hearing scheduled for Sept. 28 on its broader case, which seeks an end to what it describes as anticompetitive conduct with how Apple operates its App Store.

The dispute is the latest tussle between companies and app-marketplace operators. Companies including Facebook Inc., Microsoft Corp., and Spotify Technology SA have been critical of Apple and the commission it charges software developers.

Though "Fortnite" can be played on mobile devices as well as gaming consoles and computers, Epic said Apple's moves have irreparably harmed its business.

Apple and Google have defended their business practices, saying the commission fees are necessary because of the services the stores provide, including security and safeguarding user privacy. Apple has also said its 30% commission is the same amount that most other app marketplaces charge.

A California federal judge ruled Aug. 24 that Epic can maintain access to Apple's software-development tools needed to update its Unreal Engine, but that "Fortnite" would remain out of the App Store.

"Epic's renewed push for the same thing as last month will most likely result in the same mixed ruling again," said Florian Mueller, an independent analyst in Munich focused on antitrust issues. "Apple won't have to tolerate an alternative payment system in 'Fortnite,' but Epic will retain access to Apple's developer tools to improve and maintain its Unreal Engine."

Beyond "Fortnite," Apple later removed Epic's games like "Battle Breakers," "Spyjinx" and "Shadow Complex Remastered" from iOS and Mac app stores.

Epic, which launched a public-relations campaign critical of Apple along with its lawsuit, has since continued to urge players and other game developers to take its side. The company is valued at more than $17 billion and has said it is committed to the fight, but the dispute could cost more than legal fees.

While "Fortnite" is free to play, Epic sells virtual goods inside it such as character costumes and special modes. In July, the shooter-survival game generated about $52.5 million of in-app spending through the App Store and Google Play combined, according to estimates from research firm Sensor Tower Inc. "The continued loss of 'Fortnite' as a gathering place for users on all platforms will lead Epic's customers to defect," Epic said in its filing.

Epic's battle with Apple comes as the Justice Department is investigating Apple over antitrust concerns surrounding its App Store.

Shares In China's Top Maker Of Chips Fall 23%

By Joanne Chiu

Stock in China's top semiconductor manufacturer fell sharply after the U.S. government said it was considering placing export restrictions on the company, in what would mark a major escalation in the Trump administration's crackdown on Chinese technology companies.

Shares in **Semiconductor Manufacturing International** Corp., which is China's most advanced chip maker, fell nearly 23% to a more than three-month low in Hong Kong on Monday. In Shanghai, where the company recently raised billions of dollars through a second listing to boost its production capacity, SMIC shares fell more than 11%.

The Trump administration could add SMIC to the Commerce Department's "entity list," as U.S. officials did recently with Chinese telecom-equipment maker Huawei Technologies Co.

That would require companies to go through a difficult layer of review before exporting any U.S. technology to SMIC.

Like all chip makers, SMIC depends on U.S. equipment and software, Citigroup analysts led by Roland Shu wrote in a note to clients, adding: "We would expect SMIC production line expansion and upgrades to largely cease if SMIC is added to the entity list."

SMIC competitors such as **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing** Co. and **United Microelectronics** Corp. could eventually gain market share, Mr. Shu added.

However, he said any U.S. restrictions on SMIC could damage the broader industry in unpredictable ways, "as business relationships between China and U.S. companies become disrupted."

The move is a major escalation in the administration's crackdown.

Other Chinese chip companies also dropped. **Hua Hong Semiconductor** Ltd., a smaller Chinese rival to SMIC, fell more than 14% in Hong Kong. A Wind index of semiconductor stocks listed on mainland Chinese markets retreated 4%, underperforming a 1.9% drop in the benchmark Shanghai Composite.

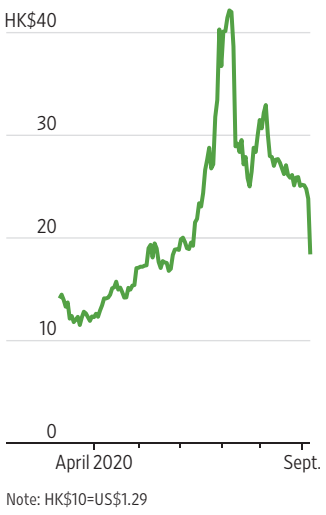
Jefferies analysts led by Edison Lee said the potential export ban was a "lose-lose proposition" that would be bad news for Chinese semiconductor companies and the global semiconductor production equipment industry.

The Jefferies team estimates China's planned semiconductor plants will require $36 billion of capital expenditure on equipment, and China could make up 24% of global SPE procurement this year.

SMIC stock has soared in recent months, as investors have piled into a company seen as strategically important to China.

Despite Monday's selloff, the shares are still up 53% this year.

SMIC's Hong Kong share price



Note: HK$10=US$1.29
Source: FactSet

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY | By Katherine Bindley

Office Water Cooler Gets Virtual Treatment

Ever since the coronavirus pandemic struck and the work world went remote, there has been a giant hole where face-to-face interactions used to be. When coworkers can't see each other, it is more than just a potential morale issue. Proximity and serendipitous encounters have long been associated with increased collaboration and innovation.

So employers are looking to digital services that attempt to mimic what we are missing out on in person. But replacing in-person connections is hard, and it will only get harder as some workers return to offices.

"The water cooler as a place to build relationships just evaporated when everybody went remote," said Dan Manian, chief executive of workplace-networking software maker **Donut Technologies** Inc.

Launched in 2016 in New York City, the Donut service uses an algorithm to introduce employees to people on other teams or in other departments every few weeks. It opens a direct message with the person you've been paired with in Slack. Donut plans to expand its services to companies that don't use Slack.

Since the pandemic shut offices, clients have started using Donut in ways the company didn't anticipate.

After workers were sent home, Donut users started asking for daily connections. Now employees can create programs that pair people up on a schedule. For example, team members might get prompted to catch up for 15 minutes, several times a week. The Slack notification can include meeting-agenda notes and suggested times to chat based on everybody's calendar availability.

Mr. Manian said 12,000 companies use Donut worldwide, with 6,000 having started since March. Some clients started using Donut for onboarding new employees by pairing them with the roster of people who would otherwise be guiding them through their first weeks.

An app called Hallway also uses Slack to foster impromptu interactions, but it takes a different approach. In a Slack channel of the users' choosing, it posts a video-chat link every couple of hours. The chat lasts 10 minutes, and is meant to replace break-room encounters. Users can launch their own quick video chats with a simple command.

Parthi Loganathan, Hallway's founder and chief executive, was working on another app before the pandemic, but decided to turn his attention to Hallway in April, building it over four days. The app is now used by close to 900 companies.

Miro aims to digitize the office whiteboard with a service allowing employees to fill a shared screen with virtual sticky notes. They can vote on them, group them together and build them out, just as they might in an in-person brainstorming session.

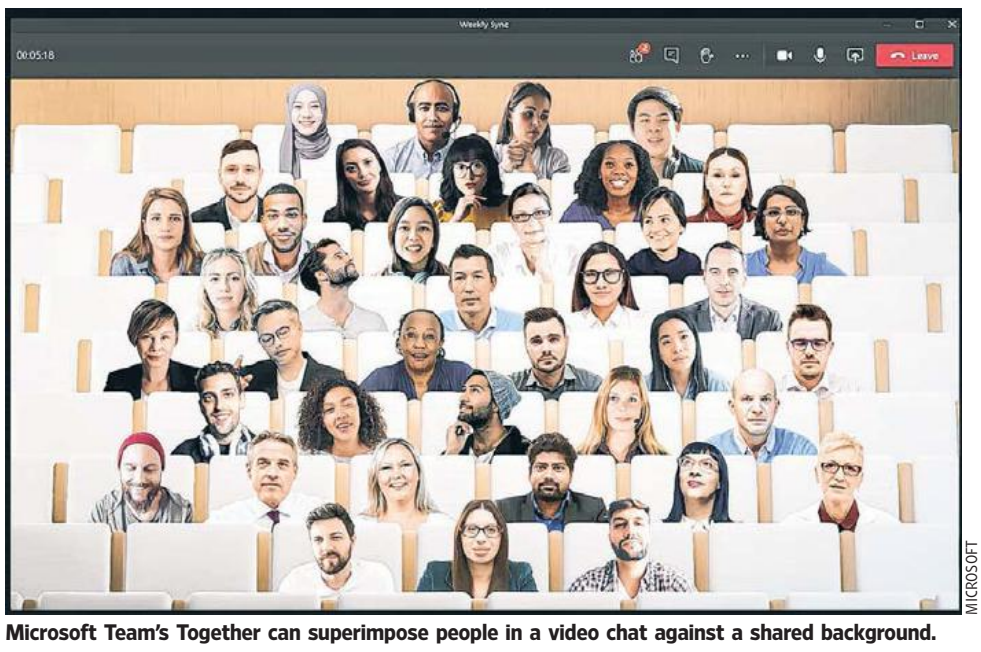
Miro has been around since 2011, but growth has soared during the pandemic. It has more than eight million users on 40,000 paid accounts, more than double the 3.7 million users and 14,800 accounts as of March 1.

As it has learned more about customers' needs during this period, Miro has adjusted the product, such as by adding attention-management features to help combat conference-call fatigue. A presenter can now draw everyone's attention to a specific part of the whiteboard at the same time, for instance. In July, the company added the ability for those using Microsoft Teams to embed the Miro app into their user interface so employees have fewer apps to toggle between.

Microsoft Corp. added other new capabilities to Teams since the pandemic started, including virtual whiteboard sticky notes and the ability for people to "raise their hands" in meetings. The company released Together mode, which uses artificial intelligence to cut out each person on a video chat, and superimpose them all against a shared background. It can visualize them together at a table or in an auditorium.

Eddie Obeng, a professor at Henley Business School at the University of Reading in the U.K., created a virtual-reality tool called Qube about a decade ago for the purpose of teaching executives remotely. It is a cartoonlike 3-D campus filled with meeting rooms, common areas and outdoor green spaces, with video screens and whiteboards.

Avatars can walk up and tap one another, then go find a spot to catch up. When avatars sit together at a table, or gather before a whiteboard in beanbag chairs, they can have a private conversation that others in the room can't hear. Avatars were originally humanlike, but people were too focused on their own appearance—and the appearance of others. Now the avatars have block-shaped heads.



MICROSOFT

Microsoft Team's Together can superimpose people in a video chat against a shared background.

A Colleague Can Be Just a Portal Away

Products that aim to increase contact between coworkers can sometimes feel like surveillance gear. Sidekick is a tablet-based video portal that is always on. Co-workers can tap on one another's video feeds, unmute themselves, and then start chatting, sort of like walking up to someone's desk.

Arthur Wu, co-founder and chief operating officer of Sidekick's maker, **Realism Labs** Inc., thinks Zoom meetings are too scheduled to feel spontaneous. "It doesn't actually feel like you're there with your teammates," he said.

With Sidekick, you can see the device out of the corner of your eye (kind of like your old deskmates) but it isn't something you are staring at all the time. You can set a do-not-disturb mode when you are in other meetings, and when you turn off the screen at the end of the day, said Mr. Wu, that signifies "leaving the office." Users who get squirmy about giving colleagues such easy access have taken to putting Post-it Notes over the camera.

Sidekick was originally made for a 55-inch screen; workers would just walk up and join conversations with people in other offices. Once the pandemic hit, the company moved to 10-inch tablets that employees keep at home. About 80 companies now use Sidekick.

As companies begin reopening facilities, Mr. Wu anticipates some employees will continue using at-home Sidekick tablets to stay connected with their colleagues in the office, who would use the larger screens.

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Netflix's Hastings Isn't Fan of Remote Work

Executive is eager to have staff back in the office once a coronavirus vaccine is available

By Joe Flint

As a founder and co-chief executive of **Netflix** Inc., Reed Hastings has reshaped both the way people watch television and how the entertainment industry operates.

Launching Netflix in 1997 as a DVD-by-mail movie-rental service with Marc Randolph, Mr. Hastings grasped early that the internet was the future of distribution. First with old movies and TV shows that Hollywood studios and networks were more than happy to sell, then with original programming such as "House of Cards" and "Stranger Things," the streaming giant has built a global subscriber base approaching 200 million households worldwide.

BOSS TALK

Along the way, Mr. Hastings has built a distinctive—and, to some, cutthroat—corporate culture. The Netflix way encourages staff to take big risks, typically without the need of approval from a chain of bosses, and to communicate with bluntness. Leaders often practice what is called the "keeper test," in which they ask themselves: If a staffer were offered a job elsewhere, would you fight to keep that employee? If the answer is no, the person is let go.

In his new book "No Rules Rules: Netflix and the Culture of Reinvention," Mr. Hastings likens being employed at the streaming giant to being part of a sports team: Getting cut is disappointing but carries no shame. "Unlike many companies, we practice: Adequate performance gets a generous severance package," reads one of Netflix's mottos.

Mr. Hastings spoke with The Wall Street Journal by video from his son's bedroom in the family home in Santa Cruz, Calif. Here are edited excerpts.

WSJ: What elements of the Netflix culture are tougher to maintain now that so many employees are working from home?
MR. HASTINGS: Debating ideas is harder now.

WSJ: Have you seen benefits from people working at home?
MR. HASTINGS: No. I don't see any positives. Not being able to get together in person, particularly internationally, is a pure negative. I've been super impressed at people's sacrifices.

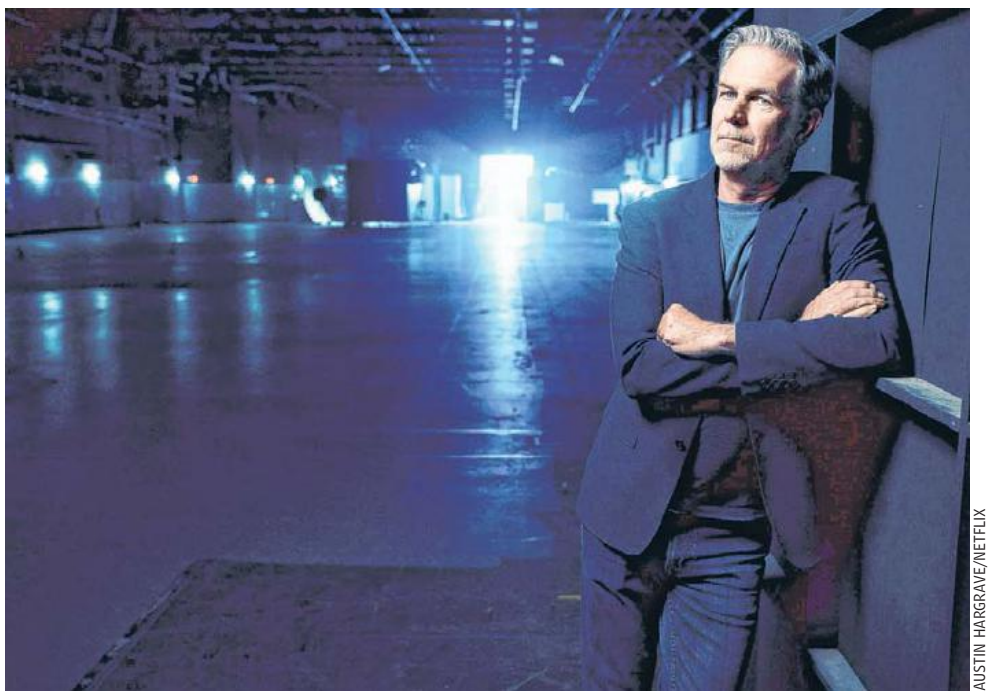
WSJ: It's been anticipated that many companies will shift to a work-from-home approach for many employees even after the Covid-19 crisis. What do you think?
MR. HASTINGS: If I had to guess, the five-day workweek will become four days in the office while one day is virtual from home. I'd bet that's where a lot of companies end up.

WSJ: Do you have a date in mind for when your workforce returns to the office?
MR. HASTINGS: Twelve hours after a vaccine is approved.

WSJ: I like that.
MR. HASTINGS: It's probably six months after a vaccine. Once we can get a majority of people vaccinated, then it's probably back in the office.

WSJ: In the book you say, "It's impossible to know where a business like ours will be in five years." What kind of prognosticating do you do?
MR. HASTINGS: We keep trying experiments. The business model will be pretty similar in five years. Can we figure out animation? Can we catch Disney in family animation?

WSJ: You've said you want Netflix to be able to pounce on unanticipated opportunities. What's an example of one you didn't see coming?
MR. HASTINGS: Nonfiction programming is a pretty good one. We started as superpremium TV, and the expansion into nonfiction has been a huge success. The whole sharing of content around the world has been a huge success. Prior to that, people thought Americans won't watch content that's produced outside the U.S.



AUSTIN HARGRAVE/NETFLIX

Reed Hastings's way encourages staff to take big risks, typically without the need of approval.

WSJ: Netflix is about radical candor. Just how candid can people be with each other from a personnel-management standpoint?
MR. HASTINGS: We want people to be very constructive. We don't want people to go around like a drunken fool, saying terrible things to people. We want people to be engaged with positive intent, to create an environment where people thrive from getting feedback.

Like when you do push-ups or when you run—it hurts, but you know you're getting stronger. You have to think about it in terms of giving feedback: It's producing enough discomfort for learning, but not so much discomfort that you're attacking the person or it feels like that.

WSJ: You write, "Only a CEO who is not busy is really doing their job." I'm sure a lot of CEOs and their families would beg to differ. Can you elaborate?
MR. HASTINGS: You don't want to be, as CEO, consumed by the tactics. For me, making casting decisions or product feature decisions—there are too many to make. You get too busy so that, even if you are good at it, you're not thinking about the long-term health and evolution of the business. You want to really know what's going on in all kinds of places, but not making decisions.

WSJ: You recently chose to share the CEO title with Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos. The corporate world is littered with examples of co-CEO structures that haven't worked out well.
MR. HASTINGS: It's littered with examples of single CEOs not working out also. Co-CEOs are an unusual thing, for sure. It only works well when two people really work well together. Ted and I have been working together for more than 20 years. He's been a virtual co-CEO for a couple of years, and we just decided to make it official.

WSJ: Netflix is known for paying top-of-the-market salaries. Are you concerned that has driven up costs for you and others in Hollywood?
MR. HASTINGS: When you're looking at great sports teams, they're often the teams that can pay high for the best players. We want to have the absolute best players and compensation is one part of that. We'd rather have three outstanding people than four OK people.

WSJ: You wrote that value or creative worth shouldn't be measured by time and that you've never paid attention to the hours people are working. Yet many people at Netflix describe it as a 24/7 lifestyle. Does the lack of work-life balance or potential for burnout concern you?
MR. HASTINGS: Coming back to the athletics, think about a coach's view: It's not how many hours you spend in the gym, but how well you play. But if you're going to play at an elite level, you're probably in the gym quite a bit. It's just not the goal state. The goal state is the effectiveness.

WSJ: Who is the audience for your book?
MR. HASTINGS: The book is for smaller organizations and newer organizations that are trying to be very creative. For big companies like WarnerMedia or Disney, they'll read it and kind of roll their eyes, and that's fine. Hopefully it will help smaller companies that are still trying to figure out what they're trying to be.

WSJ: How would the Netflix culture work in politics?
MR. HASTINGS: Politics is tough because in many ways people elect people who lie a lot. In business, we really try to avoid that. The skills to succeed in politics are really quite different than in business.

WSJ: How is the return to production since the pandemic shutdowns going?
MR. HASTINGS: We're up and running in much of Europe and much of Asia, and we've got a few things going on already in [Los Angeles]. The hope is that, through September and October, we can really get—with proper testing—a lot more running.

WSJ: You're not running out of original programming anytime soon?
MR. HASTINGS: We expect to have more original titles next year than this year. That's pretty incredible.

WSJ: If Netflix options your book, who should play you?
MR. HASTINGS: There's always Brad Pitt.

Doubts on Seed Curbs Emerge

Continued from page B1

help solve the problem by cutting off major retail avenues for foreign seeds to enter the U.S.

Yet some experts are also skeptical that the latest actions by e-commerce companies will solve the core issue federal officials believe may underlie much of this summer's seed mystery: unsolicited seed orders used to generate fake sales for other products, a tactic known as "brushing."

"The only way they are going to reduce any successful brushing schemes is to attack brushing at the source," said Chris McCabe, a former Amazon investigator and Amazon sales consultant who noted the company would have to devote more resources to tracking down these scams if it wanted to prevent objects like unsolicited seeds from being used in them.

Brushing scams work like this: Vendors selling on online retailers like Amazon pay third-party brushers to place orders for their own products—which could be anything from stuffed animals to televisions or furniture. The fake orders artificially boost sales, which surfaces the products higher on Amazon's website and gives the sellers the chance to write their own positive product reviews.

To make the fake sales seem real to e-commerce sites, brushers will send packages with tracking numbers to actual addresses. But instead of sending the actual product being boosted—which might be bulky and expensive, such as furniture—the brusher will ship cheap and lightweight items such as seeds. These are placed inside the packages with the hope that whoever receives it will assume it is an unexpected gift and not raise a fuss with authorities, according to e-commerce experts familiar with how brushing works. From the e-commerce company's perspective, the tracking number's arrival at the address makes it look like a genuine sale.

E-commerce experts say brushing is more than just an annoyance for the people barraged by unsolicited products like seeds. It generates fake reviews that mislead customers. It manipulates sales volumes to promote products that may not deserve the extra attention.

Amazon on Monday reiterated its view that seed deliveries linked to orders on its site were genuine orders delayed due to Covid-19 and not incidents of brushing. A spokesperson for the company said third-party sellers are prohibited from sending unsolicited packages. "We take action on those who violate our policies, including withholding payments, suspending or removing selling privileges, or working with law enforcement." The spokesperson said brushing is an industrywide scam, similar to phishing, and not specific to Amazon.

Online marketplace **eBay** Inc. said it is reviewing the seeds matter and any further restrictions that may be warranted. The company's current policy holds that plants or seeds prohibited by government or shipping regulations are disallowed. It said most plants and seeds can be listed provided they are allowed in the location the seller is shipping to, though there are exceptions, including some seeds and noxious weeds.

Some experts are skeptical that the actions will solve the core issue.

Jerry Kavesh, chief executive of 3P Marketplace Solutions, which sells apparel and footwear on Amazon and advises companies on selling on Amazon, said he found it unlikely that thousands of people would get apparently unsolicited orders of a similar product, seeds, if it wasn't brushing. "It walks like a duck and quacks like a duck," he said.

Mr. McCabe was also skeptical that mass unsolicited seed orders were something other than brushing. He was also doubtful that a possible brushing scheme of this scale wouldn't involve boosting Amazon products. "If you're going to do any brushing you would probably focus on Amazon because that's the biggest and most important marketplace," Mr. McCabe said.

Howard Thai, the Shenzhen, China-based head of Signalytics, an e-commerce consulting firm, said he didn't think Amazon's new policy restricting seed imports would have an effect on sending seeds from China for brushing purposes, because seeds used in brushing schemes are purposely disguised and logged as sales for other, nonprohibited products.

Agriculture officials have been concerned the seeds could introduce invasive species, weeds, pests or diseases that might harm U.S. agriculture. Osama El-Lissy, a deputy administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the agency had received nearly 20,000 reports from seed recipients and collected some 9,000 packages.

Amid the mystery, The Wall Street Journal reached out to roughly 70 recipients of mystery seeds. The Journal found that the majority had accounts consistent with brushing schemes. Of 68 people who said they were recent recipients of unsolicited seed packages, about 20 said they hadn't recently ordered seeds online but received at least one seed package in the mail. Approximately 20 others said they had recently ordered seeds and after receiving their order got additional unsolicited seeds. E-commerce experts said these cases all suggested brushing, as the people had received unsolicited seeds not connected to any specific e-commerce order they had made.

Not everyone who received unsolicited seed packages was considered a likely brushing victim. Some of the people contacted by the Journal said they never received their original seed order and then received a seed package that wasn't what they ordered.

Even if the bans on e-commerce seed sales and imports don't prevent brushing, the extensive attention given to this summer's unsolicited seed packets may render seeds less effective as a brushing tool.

—Annie Gasparro and James R. Hagerty contributed to this article.

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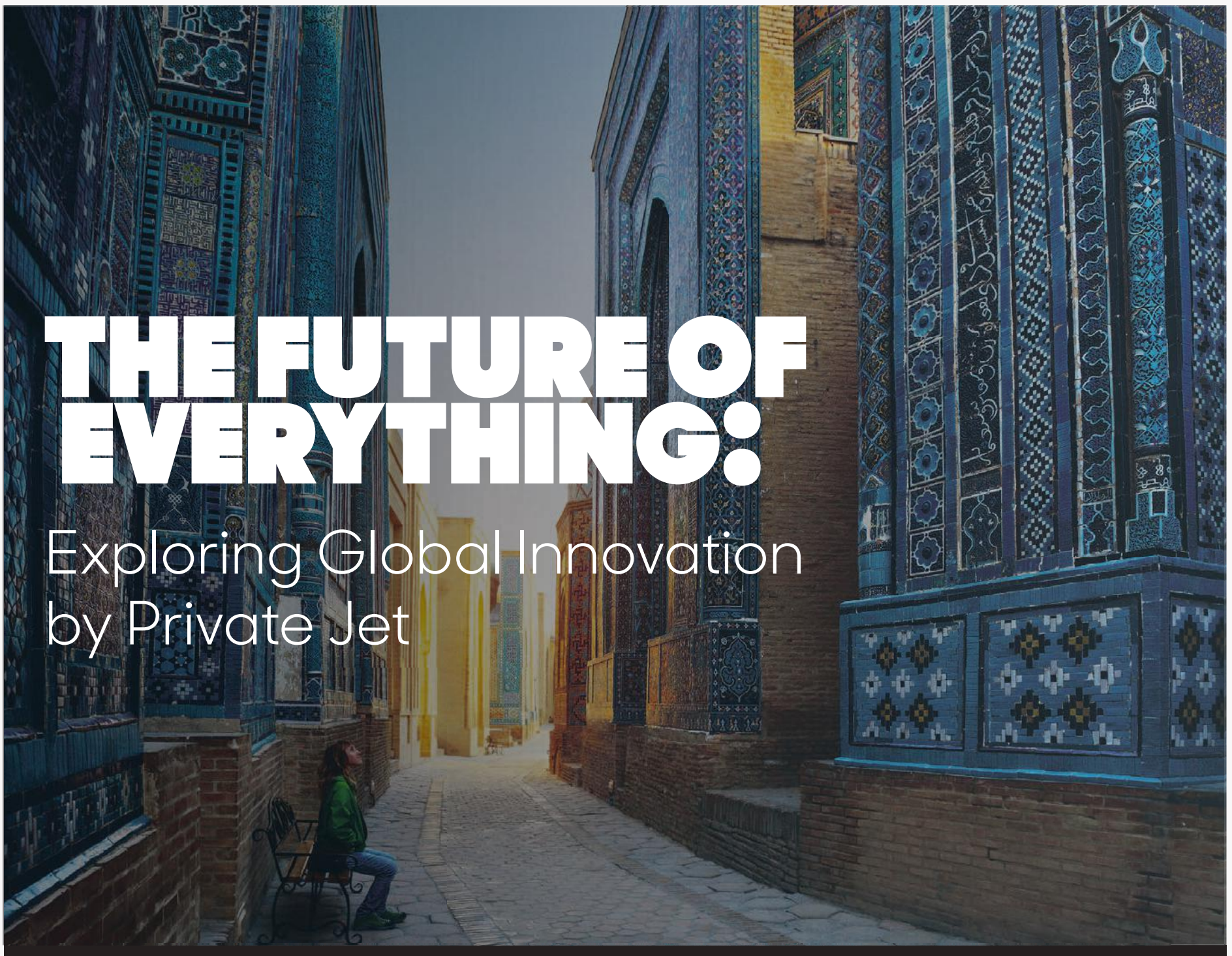

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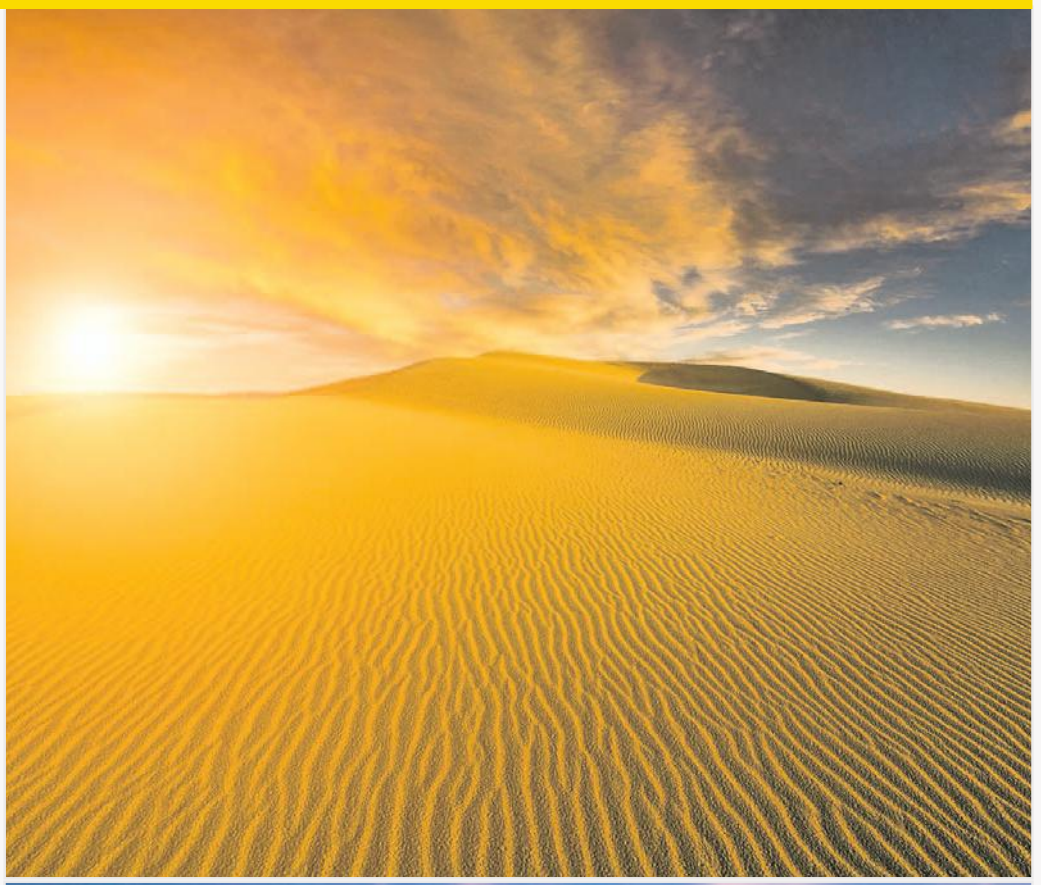

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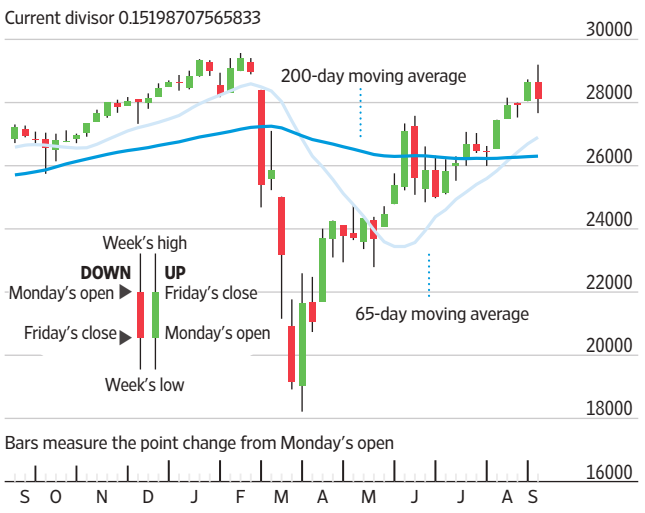
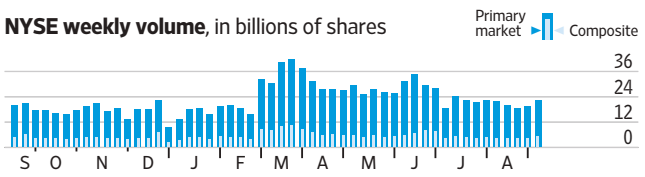
High, low, open and close for each of the past 52 weeks

	Last	Year ago
Trailing P/E ratio	27.62	19.25
P/E estimate *	26.70	17.36
Dividend yield	2.21	2.28
All-time high	29551.42, 02/12/20	



NYSE weekly volume, in billions of shares



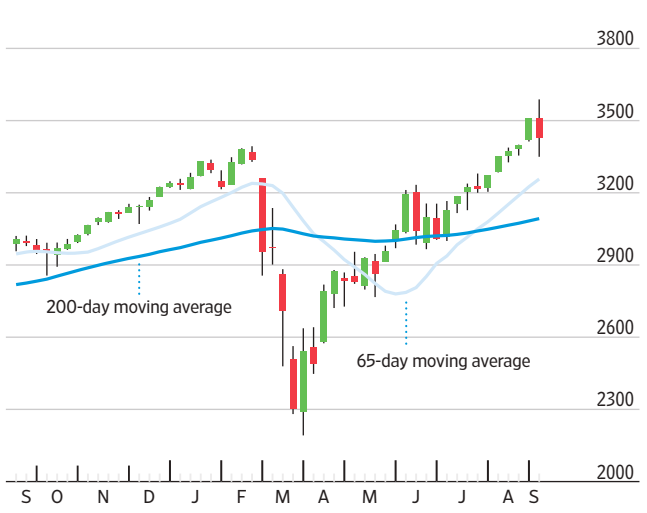
*Weekly P/E data based on as-reported earnings from Birinyi Associates Inc; †Based on Nasdaq-100 Index

S&P 500 Index

3426.96 ▼81.05, or 2.31% last week

High, low, open and close for each of the past 52 weeks

	Last	Year ago
Trailing P/E ratio *	37.92	22.95
P/E estimate *	25.64	18.06
Dividend yield *	1.77	1.93
All-time high	3580.84, 09/02/20	



Financial Flashback

The Wall Street Journal, September 8, 1997

Apple Computer's surprise decision not to split off its troubled Newton division signals Steve Jobs's determination to push simplified computing devices, particularly for education.

Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

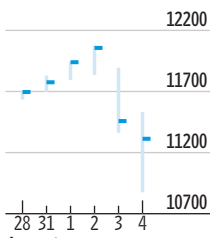
	Latest Week High	Low	Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week Low	Close (●)	High	% chg YTD	% chg 3-yr. ann.
Dow Jones										
Industrial Average	29199.35	27664.68	**28133.31**	-520.56	**-1.82**	18591.93		29551.42	**5.0**	-1.4 **8.6**
Transportation Avg	11488.70	10981.13	**11225.51**	-96.49	**-0.85**	6703.63		11451.51	**9.0**	3.0 **6.3**
Utility Average	826.89	791.13	**803.70**	2.97	**0.37**	610.89		960.89	**-5.3**	-8.6 **2.7**
Total Stock Market	36498.93	34020.27	**34848.03**	-872.37	**-2.44**	22462.76		36434.12	**14.4**	5.5 **10.8**
Barron's 400	752.15	707.09	**720.64**	-19.08	**-2.58**	455.11		752.15	**8.0**	-1.6 **3.6**
Nasdaq Stock Market										
Nasdaq Composite	12074.07	10875.87	**11313.13**	-382.50	**-3.27**	6860.67		12056.44	**39.6**	26.1 **20.7**
Nasdaq 100	12439.48	11145.99	**11622.13**	-373.72	**-3.12**	6994.29		12420.54	**48.0**	33.1 **24.7**
S&P										
500 Index	3588.11	3349.63	**3426.96**	-81.05	**-2.31**	2237.40		3580.84	**15.0**	6.1 **11.4**
MidCap 400	1970.37	1860.73	**1897.86**	-48.65	**-2.50**	1218.55		2106.12	**-0.7**	-8.0 **3.0**
SmallCap 600	922.22	876.56	**891.81**	-20.21	**-2.22**	595.67		1041.03	**-4.1**	-12.7 **1.7**
Other Indexes										
Russell 2000	1595.04	1501.52	**1535.30**	-43.04	**-2.73**	991.16		1705.22	**2.0**	-8.0 **2.8**
NYSE Composite	13299.73	12723.79	**12917.15**	-253.81	**-1.93**	8777.38		14183.2	**-0.1**	-7.2 **2.7**
Value Line	489.58	466.01	**474.08**	-10.54	**-2.17**	305.71		562.05	**-7.7**	-14.1 **-3.0**
NYSE Arca Biotech	5498.18	5118.53	**5240.17**	-130.07	**-2.42**	3855.67		6142.96	**22.7**	3.4 **7.4**
NYSE Arca Pharma	678.21	649.88	**657.28**	-16.31	**-2.42**	494.36		675.64	**11.9**	0.6 **7.5**
KBW Bank	80.72	75.77	**79.23**	0.88	**1.13**	56.19		114.12	**-16.3**	-30.1 **-5.4**
PHLX§ Gold/Silver	156.90	144.03	**149.58**	-3.27	**-2.14**	70.12		161.14	**58.7**	39.9 **18.2**
PHLX§ Oil Service	36.35	34.72	**35.56**	-0.818	**-2.25**	21.47		80.99	**-46.6**	-54.6 **-33.8**
PHLX§ Semiconductor	2382.32	2137.01	**2212.73**	-51.41	**-2.27**	1286.84		2370.18	**41.1**	19.6 **25.5**
CBOE Volatility	38.28	21.77	**30.75**	7.79	**33.93**	11.54		82.69	**105.0**	123.1 **44.8**

§Nasdaq PHLX

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

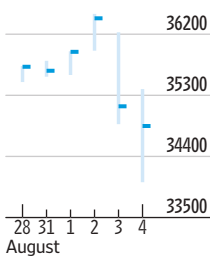
Nasdaq Composite

▼ 382.50, or -3.27% last week



DJ US TSM

▼ 872.37, or -2.44% last week



International Stock Indexes

Region/Country	Index	Monday Close	Net chg	% chg	YTD % chg
World	**The Global Dow**	3067.02	11.88	0.39	-5.7
	DJ Global Index	437.79	...	unch.	0.9
	DJ Global ex U.S.	250.31	1.42	0.57	-5.0
Americas	**DJ Americas**	795.68	0.13	0.02	4.6
Brazil	**Sao Paulo Bovespa**	101241.73	...	Closed	-12.5
Canada	**S&P/TSX Comp**	16218.01	...	Closed	-5.0
Mexico	**S&P/BMV IPC**	36637.45	188.95	0.52	-15.9
Chile	**Santiago IPSA**	2655.86	30.05	1.14	-20.4
EMEA	**Stoxx Europe 600**	367.97	6.04	1.67	-11.5
Eurozone	**Euro Stoxx**	363.81	6.05	1.69	-9.9
Belgium	**Bel-20**	3359.38	48.69	1.47	-15.1
Denmark	**OMX Copenhagen 20**	1310.55	22.89	1.78	15.4
France	**CAC 40**	5053.72	88.65	1.79	-15.5
Germany	**DAX**	13100.28	257.62	2.01	-1.1
Israel	**Tel Aviv**	1344.34	1.37	0.10	-20.1
Italy	**FTSE MIB**	19738.01	346.76	1.79	-16.0
Netherlands	**AEX**	547.14	6.88	1.27	-9.5
Russia	**RTS Index**	1218.52	-1.49	-0.12	-21.3
South Africa	**FTSE/JSE All-Share**	54400.28	521.33	0.97	-4.7
Spain	**IBEX 35**	7080.66	90.94	1.30	-25.9
Sweden	**OMX Stockholm**	707.81	15.32	2.21	4.0
Switzerland	**Swiss Market**	10297.80	144.71	1.43	-3.0
Turkey	**BIST 100**	1096.81	10.49	0.97	-4.1
U.K.	**FTSE 100**	5937.40	138.32	2.39	-21.3
U.K.	**FTSE 250**	17642.20	287.92	1.66	-19.4
Asia-Pacific					
Australia	**S&P/ASX 200**	5944.80	19.29	0.33	-11.1
China	**Shanghai Composite**	3292.59	-62.78	-1.87	7.9
Hong Kong	**Hang Seng**	24589.65	-105.80	-0.43	-12.8
India	**S&P BSE Sensex**	38417.23	60.04	0.16	-6.9
Japan	**Nikkei Stock Avg**	23089.95	-115.48	-0.50	-2.4
Singapore	**Straits Times**	2511.21	1.57	0.06	-22.1
South Korea	**Kospi**	2384.22	15.97	0.67	8.5
Taiwan	**TAIEX**	12601.40	-36.55	-0.29	5.0
Thailand	**SET**	1311.95	...	Closed	-17.0

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

Commodities and Currencies

	Monday Close	Net chg	% Chg	YTD % chg
WSJ Dollar Index	88.14	0.20	0.23	-1.58
Euro, per dollar	0.8463	0.0018	0.21	-5.09
Yen, per dollar	106.28	0.04	0.04	-2.17
U.K. pound, in dollars	1.32	-0.011	-0.85	-0.69

	Last Week Close	Net chg	% Chg	YTD % chg
DJ Commodity	623.14	-13.18	-2.07	-2.98
TR/CC CRB Index	149.69	-3.75	-2.44	-19.43
Crude oil, $ per barrel	39.77	-3.20	-7.45	-34.87
Natural gas, $/MMBtu	2.588	-0.069	-2.60	18.23
Gold, $ per troy oz.	1923.90	-40.70	-2.07	26.61
U.S. Dollar Index	92.97	0.60	0.65	-3.55
WSJ Dollar Index	87.94	0.42	0.48	-1.81
Euro, per dollar	0.8446	0.0047	0.56	-5.29
Yen, per dollar	106.24	0.87	0.83	-2.21
U.K. pound, in dollars	1.33	-0.007	-0.53	0.16

	52-Week Low	Close (●)	High	% Chg
DJ Commodity	433.70		647.86	3.16
TR/CC CRB Index	106.29		187.39	-13.28
Crude oil, $ per barrel	-37.63		63.27	-29.64
Natural gas, $/MMBtu	1.48		2.86	3.69
Gold, $ per troy oz.	1452.10		2051.50	27.73
U.S. Dollar Index	92.14		102.82	-5.51
WSJ Dollar Index	87.52		97.02	-3.64
Euro, per dollar	0.84		0.94	-6.84
Yen, per dollar	102.37		112.11	-0.64
U.K. pound, in dollars	1.15		1.34	8.11

WSJ.COM
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All are available free at WSJMarkets.com

New to the Market

Public Offerings of Stock

IPOs in the U.S. Market

None expected this week

Lockup Expirations

Below, companies whose officers and other insiders will become eligible to sell shares in their newly public companies for the first time. Such sales can move the stock's price.

Lockup expiration	Issue date	Issuer	Symbol	Offer price($)	Offer amt ($ mil.)	Through Friday (%)	Lockup provision
Sept. 8	March 12, '20	Imara Inc	**IMRA**	16.00	75.7		180 days

Sources: Dealogic; WSJ Market Data Group

IPO Scorecard

Performance of IPOs, most-recent listed first

Company **SYMBOL** IPO date/Offer price	Friday's close ($)	% Chg From Offer price	% Chg From 1st-day close	Company **SYMBOL** IPO date/Offer price	Friday's close ($)	% Chg From Offer price	% Chg From 1st-day close
HighCape Capital Acquisition **CAPAU** Sept. 4/$10.00	10.15	**1.5**	...	PainReform **PRFX** Sept. 1/$8.00	6.73	**-15.9**	-0.1
Tailwind Acquisition **TWND.UT** Sept. 4/$10.00	10.00	**...**	...	Harbor Custom Development **HCDI** Aug. 28/$6.00	5.65	**-5.8**	-24.7
BCTG Acquisition **BCTG** Sept. 3/$10.00	10.25	**2.5**	0.2	Burgundy Technology Acquisition **BTAQU** Aug. 27/$10.00	9.99	**-0.1**	0.1
INSU Acquisition II **INAQU** Sept. 3/$10.00	10.25	**2.5**	-0.1	CF Finance Acquisition II **CFIIU** Aug. 27/$10.00	10.07	**0.7**	1.3
CM Life Sciences **CMLFU** Sept. 2/$10.00	10.32	**3.2**	0.7	FTAC Olympus Acquisition **FTOCU** Aug. 26/$10.00	10.01	**0.1**	0.8

Sources: Dow Jones Market Data; FactSet

Other Stock Offerings

Secondaries and follow-ons expected this week in the U.S. market

None expected this week

Off the Shelf

"Shelf registrations" allow a company to prepare a stock or bond for sale, without selling the whole issue at once. Corporations sell as conditions become favorable. Here are the shelf sales, or takedowns, over the last week:

Issuer/Industry	Takedown date/ Registration date	Deal value ($ mil.)	Bookrunner(s)
NIO Inc Auto/Truck	Aug. 31 June 9,'20	**$1,730.2**	MS, China Int'l, BofA Securities
Zosano Pharma Corp Healthcare	Sept. 1 March 16,'20	**$20.8**	BTIG LLC
Hamilton Lane Inc Finance	Sept. 2 Sept. 12,'18	**$154.9**	JPM
iClick Interactive Asia Group Ltd Professional Services	Sept. 3 June 28,'19	**$72.3**	BofA Securities, China Renaissance Holdings, Ind. & Comm. Bank of China, Alliance Global Partners

Public and Private Borrowing

Treasurys

Tuesday, September 8

Auction of 13, 26 and 52 week bills; announced on Sept. 3, settles on Sept. 10

Auction of 3 year note; announced on Sept. 3, settles on Sept. 15

Thursday, September 10

Auction of 4 and 8 week bills; announced on Sept. 8; settles on Sept. 15

A Week in the Life of the DJIA

A look at how the Dow Jones Industrial Average component stocks did in the past week and how much each moved the index. The DJIA lost 520.56 points, or 1.82%, on the week. A $1 change in the price of any DJIA stock = 6.58-point change in the average. To date, a $1,000 investment on Dec. 31 in each current DJIA stock component would have returned $30,340, or a gain of 1.13%, on the $30,000 investment, including reinvested dividends.

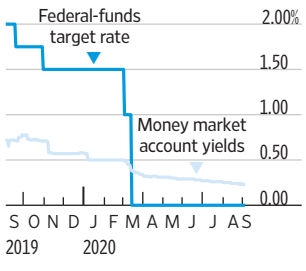
The Week's Action: Pct chg (%)	Stock price change	Point chg in average*	Company	Symbol	Close	$1,000 Invested (year-end '19) $1,000
5.54	2.55	16.78	**Dow**	DOW	$48.60	$934
3.17	4.55	29.94	**Caterpillar**	CAT	148.18	1,027
3.05	3.13	20.59	**American Express**	AXP	105.67	860
2.43	1.21	7.96	**Coca-Cola**	KO	51.04	938
2.06	1.22	8.03	**Verizon**	VZ	60.48	1,017
1.80	2.53	16.65	**Walmart**	WMT	142.83	1,218
1.56	3.23	21.25	**Goldman Sachs**	GS	210.94	935
0.73	0.75	4.93	**JPMorgan Chase**	JPM	103.52	763
0.59	0.68	4.47	**Travelers**	TRV	116.57	863
0.10	0.11	0.72	**Nike**	NKE	112.40	1,118
0.07	0.11	0.72	**3M**	MMM	165.77	967
-0.48	-0.41	-2.70	**Merck**	MRK	85.24	952
-0.58	-0.81	-5.33	**Procter & Gamble**	PG	137.96	1,126
-0.69	-0.35	-2.30	**Intel**	INTC	50.08	851
-0.75	-2.37	-15.59	**UnitedHealth Group**	UNH	312.00	1,070
-1.00	-1.69	-11.12	**Honeywell**	HON	166.69	959
-1.48	-3.18	-20.92	**McDonald's**	MCD	211.73	1,092
-1.86	-4.72	-31.06	**Amgen**	AMGN	248.40	1,052
-2.21	-2.77	-18.23	**IBM**	IBM	122.30	947
-2.62	-3.55	-23.36	**Walt Disney**	DIS	131.99	913
-2.70	-4.75	-31.25	**Boeing**	BA	171.05	528
-3.08	-3.85	-25.31	**Apple**	AAPL	120.96	1,659
-3.27	-1.38	-9.08	**Cisco**	CSCO	40.82	872
-3.29	-5.05	-33.23	**Johnson & Johnson**	JNJ	148.59	1,039
-4.32	-3.70	-24.34	**Chevron**	CVX	81.93	708
-4.82	-1.87	-12.30	**Walgreens**	WBA	36.89	646
-5.12	-11.05	-72.70	**Visa**	V	204.66	1,094
-5.81	-16.63	-109.42	**Home Depot**	HD	269.66	1,257
-6.05	-16.40	-107.90	**salesforce.com**	CRM	254.70	1,566
-6.40	-14.66	-96.46	**Microsoft**	MSFT	214.25	1,369

*Based on Composite price. DJIA is calculated on primary-market price.
Source: Dow Jones Market Data; FactSet.

Consumer Rates and Returns to Investor

U.S. consumer rates

A consumer rate against its benchmark over the past year



Selected rates

Money Market/Savings Accts

Bankrate.com avg†:	**3.30%**
BankDirect	**0.75%**
Richardson, TX	877-839-2737
DollarSavingsDirect	**0.75%**
New York, NY	866-395-8693
CFG Community Bank	**0.80%**
Baltimore, MD	888-205-8388
First Internet Bank of Indiana	**0.81%**
Indianapolis, IN	888-873-3424
TAB Bank	**0.90%**
Ogden, UT	(800) 355-3063

Interest rate	Yield/Rate (%) Last (●)	Week ago	52-Week Range (%) Low	High	3-yr chg (pct pts)
Federal-funds rate target	0.00-0.25	0.00-0.25	0.00	2.00	**-1.00**
Prime rate*	**3.25**	3.25	3.25	5.25	**-1.00**
Libor, 3-month	**0.25**	0.24	0.23	2.16	**-1.07**
Money market, annual yield	**0.23**	0.23	0.23	0.78	**-0.04**
Five-year CD, annual yield	**0.65**	0.66	0.65	1.71	**-0.80**
30-year mortgage, fixed†	**3.09**	3.15	3.03	4.22	**-0.71**
15-year mortgage, fixed†	**2.55**	2.59	2.55	3.57	**-0.49**
Jumbo mortgages, $510,400-plus†	**3.13**	3.20	3.06	4.71	**-1.16**
Five-year adj mortgage (ARM)†	**3.30**	3.29	3.06	4.78	**0.04**
New-car loan, 48-month	**4.18**	4.19	4.17	4.65	**1.17**

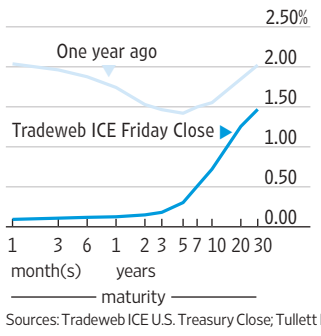
Bankrate.com rates based on survey of over 4,800 online banks. *Base rate posted by 70% of the nation's largest banks. † Excludes closing costs.

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data; Bankrate.com

Benchmark Yields and Rates

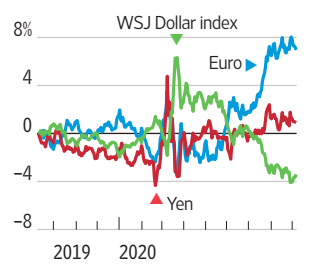
Treasury yield curve

Yield to maturity of current bills, notes and bonds



Forex Race

Yen, euro vs. dollar; dollar vs. major U.S. trading partners



Sources: Tradeweb ICE U.S. Treasury Close; Tullett Prebon; Dow Jones Market Data

Corporate Borrowing Rates and Yields

Bond total return index	Yield (%) Last	Wk ago	Spread +/- Treasurys, in basis pts, 52-wk Range Last	Low	High	Total Return 52-wk	3-yr
U.S. Treasury, Barclays	**0.520**	0.510				6.45	5.17
U.S. Treasury Long, Barclays	**1.360**	1.400				12.09	11.06
Aggregate, Barclays	**1.150**	1.180	n.a.	39	127	6.13	5.13
Fixed-Rate MBS, Barclays	**1.120**	1.260	n.a.	28	132	4.32	3.67
High Yield 100, ICE BofA	**4.559**	4.238	419	271	1018	1.719	3.694
Muni Master, ICE BofA	**1.048**	1.000	29	-12	41	3.898	3.918
EMBI Global, J.P. Morgan	**4.637**	4.730	375	277	662	3.951	4.115

Sources: J.P. Morgan; S&P Dow Jones Indices; Bloomberg Barclays; ICE Data Services

Currencies

U.S.-dollar foreign-exchange rates in late New York trading

Country/currency	Mon in US$	Mon per US$	US$ vs. YTD chg (%)
Americas			
Argentina peso	.0134	74.6355	**24.6**
Brazil real	.1887	5.3007	**31.9**
Canada dollar	.7635	1.3098	**0.8**
Chile peso	.001290	775.10	**4.8**
Colombia peso	.000269	3715.00	**13.2**
Ecuador US dollar	1	1	**unch**
Mexico peso	.0463	21.6162	**14.2**
Uruguay peso	.02355	42.4550	**14.3**
Asia-Pacific			
Australian dollar	.7276	1.3744	**-3.5**
China yuan	.1464	6.8307	**-1.9**
Hong Kong dollar	.1290	7.7504	**-0.5**
India rupee	.01362	73.447	**2.9**
Indonesia rupiah	.0000678	14740	**6.2**
Japan yen	.009409	106.28	**-2.2**
Kazakhstan tenge	.002358	424.04	**11.1**
Macau pataca	.1252	7.9865	**-0.4**
Malaysia ringgit	.2405	4.1575	**1.6**
New Zealand dollar	.6692	1.4943	**0.6**
Pakistan rupee	.00604	165.652	**6.9**
Philippines peso	.0206	48.626	**-4.1**
Singapore dollar	.7319	1.3664	**1.5**
South Korea won	.0008419	1187.77	**2.8**
Sri Lanka rupee	.0054127	184.75	**1.9**
Taiwan dollar	.03410	29.323	**-2.0**
Thailand baht	.03188	31.370	**5.4**

Country/currency	Mon in US$	Mon per US$	US$ vs. YTD chg (%)
Vietnam dong	.00004315	23175	**0.01**
Europe			
Czech Rep. koruna	.04463	22.407	**-1.2**
Denmark krone	.1588	6.2983	**-5.5**
Euro area euro	1.1816	.8463	**-5.1**
Hungary forint	.003284	304.52	**3.1**
Iceland krona	.007164	139.58	**15.3**
Norway krone	.1118	8.9407	**1.8**
Poland zloty	.2663	3.7547	**-1.0**
Russia ruble	.01320	75.744	**22.0**
Sweden krona	.1140	8.7724	**-6.3**
Switzerland franc	1.0915	.9162	**-5.3**
Turkey lira	.1341	7.4574	**25.4**
Ukraine hryvnia	.0359	27.8500	**17.6**
UK pound	1.3168	.7594	**0.7**
Middle East/Africa			
Bahrain dinar	2.6525	.3770	**-0.01**
Egypt pound	.0633	15.7984	**-1.6**
Israel shekel	.2960	3.3789	**-2.2**
Kuwait dinar	3.2694	.3059	**0.9**
Oman sul rial	2.5974	.3850	**unch**
Qatar rial	.2747	3.641	**-0.1**
Saudi Arabia riyal	.2666	3.7511	**-0.01**
South Africa rand	.0597	16.7452	**19.6**

	Close	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
WSJ Dollar Index	88.14	0.20	0.23	**-1.58**

Sources: Tullett Prebon, Dow Jones Market Data

CLOSED-END FUNDS

Listed are the 300 largest closed-end funds as measured by assets. Closed-end funds sell a limited number of shares and invest the proceeds in securities. Unlike open-end funds, closed-ends generally do not buy their shares back from investors who wish to cash in their holdings. Instead, fund shares trade on a stock exchange. **NA** signifies that the information is not available or not applicable. **NS** signifies funds not in existence for the entire period. 12 month yield is computed by dividing income dividends paid (during the previous 12 months for periods ending at month-end or during the previous 52 weeks for periods ending at any time other than month-end) by the latest month-end market price adjusted for capital gains distributions. Depending on the fund category, either 12-month yield or total return is listed.

Source: Lipper

Friday, September 4, 2020

Fund (SYM)	NAV	Close	Prem /Disc	52 wk Ttl Ret
General Equity Funds				
Adams Diversified Equity **ADX**	19.23	16.44	-14.5	13.4
Boulder Growth & Income **BIF**	12.50	10.23	-18.2	-3.1
Central Secs **CET**	36.47	29.35	-19.5	-2.1
CohenStrsCEOppFd **FOF**	11.64	11.60	-0.3	-1.9
EVTxAdvDivIncm **EVT**	21.99	20.13	-8.5	-9.2
GabelliDiv&IncTr **GDV**	22.50	18.90	-16.0	-4.6
Gabelli Equity Tr **GAB**	5.25	5.48	+4.4	0.9
GeneralAmer **GAM**	42.02	34.78	-17.2	1.8
JHancockTaxAdvDiv **HTD**	NA	19.47	NA	-22.1
Librty AllStr Eq **USA**	6.58	6.03	-8.4	6.3
Librty AllStr Gr **ASG**	6.85	7.12	+3.9	30.9
Royce Micro-Cap Tr **RMT**	9.43	7.92	-16.0	7.8
Royce Value Trust **RVT**	15.42	13.35	-13.4	4.8
Source Capital **SOR**	42.00	35.51	-15.5	1.9
Tri-Continental **TY**	30.71	26.43	-13.9	6.2
Specialized Equity Funds				
Aberdeen Glb Prem Prop **AWP**	5.70	4.86	-14.7	-13.1
Adams Natural Resources **PEO**	12.58	11.38	-9.5	-20.3
AllianzGI AI & Tech Opps **AIO**	24.20	21.40	-11.6	NS
GI DivInt&PremStr **NFJ**	14.01	12.17	-13.1	7.7
ASA Gold & Prec Met Ltd **ASA**	26.22	22.47	-14.3	76.5
BR Enh C&I **CII**	17.36	15.48	-10.8	4.7
BlackRock Energy & Res **BGR**	7.71	6.74	-12.6	-31.2
BlackRock Eq Enh Div **BDJ**	8.47	7.53	-11.1	-9.4
BlackRock Enh Glbl Div **BOE**	11.26	9.69	-13.9	1.1
BlackRock Enh Intl Div **BGY**	6.12	5.37	-12.3	6.0
BlackRock Hlth Sci Tr II **BMEZ**	24.76	22.70	-8.3	NS
BlackRock Hlth Sciences **BME**	42.21	42.93	+1.7	20.1
BlackRock Res & Comm **BCX**	7.66	6.39	-16.6	-8.5
BlackRock Sci&Tech Tr II **BSTZ**	28.06	25.20	-10.2	27.8
BlackRock Sci&Tech Trust **BST**	41.60	41.00	-1.4	36.6
BlackRock Utl Inf & Pwr **BUI**	21.49	22.05	+2.6	-1.1
CBRE ClrnGlbRlEst **IGR**	7.47	6.14	-17.8	-11.9
CLEARBRIDGE ENGY MDS OPP **EMO**	14.12	10.95	-22.5	-71.2
ClearBridge MLP & Midstm **CEM**	17.37	13.78	-20.7	-71.9
ChnStrInfr **UTF**	23.27	23.06	-0.9	-6.3
Cohen&SteersQualInc **RQI**	12.52	11.26	-10.1	-20.3
Cohen&Steers TotRet **RFI**	12.71	12.78	+0.6	-9.8
CohenStrsREITPrefInc **RNP**	22.56	19.78	-12.3	-9.4
Columbia Sel Prm Tech Gr **STK**	22.21	21.81	-1.8	12.2
DNP Select Income **DNP**	8.68	10.12	+16.6	-14.7
Duff&Ph Uti&Infra Inc Fd **DPG**	12.63	11.07	-12.4	-20.6
EtnVncEqtyInc **EOI**	15.87	15.01	-5.4	5.9
EtnVncEqtyIncoII **EOS**	19.14	18.75	-2.0	19.5
EVRskMnDvsEqInc **ETJ**	10.02	9.96	-0.6	18.3
ETnVncTxMgdBuyWrtOpp **ETB**	13.87	13.69	-1.3	-4.3
EtnVncTxMgdBuyWrtOpp **ETV**	13.65	14.17	+3.8	6.1
EvTxMnDvsEqInc **ETY**	12.16	11.20	-7.9	2.5
EtnVncTxMgdGlbB **ETW**	9.67	8.84	-8.6	2.3
EVTxMnGblDvEqInc **EXG**	8.54	7.73	-9.5	3.4
First Trust Energy Inc G **FEN**	12.28	9.58	-22.0	-47.8
First Tr Enhanced Eq **FFA**	16.79	15.26	-9.1	2.8
FirstTrEnergyInfra **FIF**	11.77	9.70	-17.6	-32.7
FirstTrMLPEner&Inc **FEI**	6.53	5.07	-22.4	-48.7
Gabelli Healthcare **GRX**	12.66	10.60	-16.3	7.2
Gab Utility **GUT**	3.92	7.59	+93.6	23.1
GAMCOGlGold&NatRes **GGN**	4.12	3.55	-13.8	-7.6
J Han Finl Opptys **BTO**	NA	23.61	NA	-17.3
Neuberger Brmn MLP & EI **NML**	3.54	2.60	-26.6	-59.0
Nuv Dow 30 Dyn Overwrite **DIAX**	15.93	14.00	-12.1	-16.7
NuvCorEqAlpha **JCE**	14.42	13.12	-9.0	-0.9
Nuveen Nasdaq 100 Dyn Ov **QQQX**	25.50	24.82	-2.7	18.1
Nuv Real Est **JRS**	9.17	7.93	-13.5	-21.3
Nuveen RI Asst Inc & Gro **JRI**	14.58	12.37	-15.2	-20.8
NuvS&P500DynOvFd **SPXX**	15.29	13.87	-9.3	-9.4
NuvSP500BuyIncFd **BXMX**	13.08	11.52	-11.9	-4.5
ReavesUtilityIncome **UTG**	30.98	31.42	+1.4	-8.8
Tortoise Energy Infra Crp **TYG**	NA	16.01	NA	-78.7
Income & Preferred Stock Funds				
CalamosStratTot **CSQ**	14.16	13.75	-2.9	16.4
CohenStrsLtdDurPref&Inc **LDP**	24.87	23.87	-4.0	1.1
CohenStrsSelPref&Income **PSF**	25.68	26.75	+4.2	0.8
FirstTrIntDurPref&Inc **FPF**	22.82	21.95	-3.8	0.5
JHanPrefInc **HPI**	18.76	19.79	+5.5	-8.8
JHPrefIncII **HPF**	18.43	18.05	-2.1	-15.5
HnckJPfdInco III **HPS**	16.49	16.27	-1.3	-9.3
J Han Prm **PDT**	12.87	13.02	+1.2	-19.3
LMP CapInco **SCD**	12.30	10.85	-11.8	-12.4
Nuveen Pref & Inc Opp **JPC**	9.11	8.70	-4.5	-5.9
Nuveen Fd **JPS**	9.35	8.97	-4.1	-1.4
Nuveen Pref & Inc Term **JPI**	23.22	22.88	-1.5	0.4
Nuveen TxAdvDivGr **JTD**	15.35	13.37	-12.9	-14.2
TCW Strat Income **TSI**	NA	5.77	NA	7.2
Convertible Sec's. Funds				
AdvntCnvrtbl&IncFd **AVK**	16.47	13.93	-15.4	5.4
GI Conv & Inc **NCV**	5.33	4.73	-11.3	-6.9
AGI Conv & Inc II **NCZ**	4.78	4.20	-12.1	-7.4
AGI Dvs Inc & Conv **ACV**	28.94	26.06	-10.0	20.7
AGI Eqty & Conv Inc **NIE**	27.99	24.53	-12.4	20.5
CalamosConvHi **CHY**	13.49	11.98	-11.2	16.8
CalmosConvOp **CHI**	12.80	11.37	-11.2	18.2
World Equity Funds				
Aberdeen Emg Mkts Eq Inc **AEF**	7.78	6.65	-14.5	-3.2
Aberdeen Tot Dyn Div **AOD**	9.42	8.02	-14.9	6.7
Calamos GloDynInc **CHW**	8.48	8.18	-3.5	16.3
Cdn Genl Inv **CGI**	41.29	26.71	-35.3	13.8
China **CHN**	30.59	26.05	-14.8	38.6
EV TxAdvGlbDivInc **ETG**	17.35	15.43	-11.1	3.9
EtnVncTxAdvOpp **ETO**	24.02	21.57	-10.2	-5.9
Gabelli Multimedia **GGT**	7.09	7.14	+0.7	-3.5
Highland Global Alloc **HGLB**	9.85	6.50	-34.0	-24.5
India Fund **IFN**	19.57	16.59	-15.2	-4.7
Japan Smaller Cap **JOF**	NA	8.05	NA	4.9
LazardGlbTotRetInc **LGI**	17.78	15.61	-12.2	6.8
MS ChinaShrFd **CAF**	26.85	21.82	-18.7	6.4
MS India **IIF**	20.66	17.26	-16.5	-4.3
New Germany **GF**	19.44	16.83	-13.4	25.0
Templeton Dragon **TDF**	25.34	21.65	-14.6	40.7
Templeton Em Mkt **EMF**	17.49	15.50	-11.4	14.4
Wells Fargo GI Div Oppty **EOD**	5.14	4.50	-12.5	-5.8

Fund (SYM)	NAV	Close	Prem /Disc	12 Mo Yld
U.S. Mortgage Bond Funds				
BlckRk Income **BKT**	6.33	6.20	-2.1	6.6
Invesco HI 2023 Tgt Term **IHIT**	8.26	7.83	-5.2	7.6
Investment Grade Bond Funds				
BlRck Core Bond **BHK**	16.26	15.86	-2.5	5.1
BR Credit Alloc Inc **BTZ**	15.21	13.93	-8.4	7.0
Insight Select Income **INSI**	21.89	20.34	-7.1	4.0
InvescoBond **VBF**	21.36	19.97	-6.5	3.8
J Han Income **JHS**	16.20	15.14	-6.5	4.7
MFS Intmdt **MIN**	4.01	3.86	-3.7	8.9
Western Asset Inf-Lk Inc **WIA**	14.00	12.73	-9.1	3.1
Western Asset Inf-Lk O&I **WIW**	13.40	11.51	-14.1	3.6
Westn Asst IG Def Opp Tr **IGI**	21.61	21.24	-1.7	3.9
Loan Participation Funds				
Apollo Senior Floating **AFT**	NA	12.76	NA	8.2
BR Debt Strategy **DSU**	11.32	10.06	-11.1	8.5
BR F/R Inc Str **FRA**	13.55	11.67	-13.9	7.9
BlackRock Floatng Rt Inc **BGT**	13.15	11.44	-13.0	7.9
Blackstone / GSO Strat **BGB**	13.70	12.00	-12.4	10.4
Blackstone/GSO Sr Flt Rt **BSL**	15.23	13.37	-12.2	9.1
EtnVncFltRteInc **EFT**	13.87	12.18	-12.2	7.9
EV SenFlRtTr **EFR**	13.65	11.81	-13.5	8.0
EVSnrIncm **EVF**	6.50	5.94	-8.6	6.8
FT/Sr Fltg Rte Inc 2 **FCT**	12.68	11.13	-12.2	9.3
FT/Sr Fltg Rte 2022 Tg Tr **FIV**	9.25	8.62	-6.8	3.4
Highland Income **HFRO**	12.64	8.88	-29.7	10.4
InvDYCrOpp **VTA**	11.01	9.20	-16.4	9.8
InvSnrIncTr **VVR**	4.28	3.67	-14.3	7.5
Nuveen Credit Strat Inc **JQC**	6.98	6.10	-12.6	18.1
NuvFloatRateIncFd **JFR**	9.63	8.34	-13.4	8.2
NuvFloatRteIncOppty **JRO**	9.54	8.27	-13.3	8.2
PionrFltRate Tr **PHD**	10.94	10.34	-5.5	6.9
High Yield Bond Funds				
AllianceBernGlHiIncm **AWF**	12.32	10.73	-12.9	7.2
Angel Oak FS Inc Trm **FINS**	NA	16.77	NA	7.7
Barings Glb SD HY Bd **BGH**	15.11	13.40	-11.3	11.5
BR Corporate HY **HYT**	11.49	11.09	-3.5	8.3
BlackRock Ltd Dur Inc **BLW**	16.41	15.02	-8.5	7.7
BNY Mellon Hi Yield Str **DHF**	3.15	2.75	-12.7	9.4
Brookfield Real Asst Inc **RA**	19.49	17.11	-12.2	14.1
CrSuisHighYld **DHY**	2.42	2.11	-12.8	9.7
DoubleLine Inc Sol **DSL**	16.58	16.18	-2.4	11.4
DoubleLine Yld Opps **DLY**	NA	NA	NA	NS
EVHiInc2021 **EHT**	9.83	9.61	-2.2	4.0
First Tr Hi Inc Lng/Shrt **FSD**	15.88	13.99	-11.9	9.3
IVY HIGH INCOME OPP **IVH**	13.71	12.06	-12.0	10.3
NeubHgYldStrt **NHS**	12.01	11.20	-6.7	9.6
New Amer Hi Inc **HYB**	9.53	8.30	-12.9	6.9
NexPointStratOppty **NHF**	17.35	9.26	-46.6	19.1
Nuveen CI Nov 2021 Tgt **JHB**	9.42	9.16	-2.8	4.9
Nuveen Crdt Opps 2022 TT **JCO**	8.18	8.10	-1.0	6.9
Nuveen Global High Inc **JGH**	16.19	14.18	-12.4	8.3
PGIM Global High Yield **GHY**	15.77	13.56	-14.0	9.3
PGIM High Yield Bond **ISD**	16.10	14.06	-12.7	8.9
PioneerHiIncmTr **PHT**	8.91	8.04	-9.8	9.1
Wells Fargo Income Oppty **EAD**	8.58	7.47	-12.9	9.3
WstAstHIF II **HIX**	7.05	6.67	-5.4	8.7
Western Asset Hi Inc Opp **HIO**	5.37	4.99	-7.1	7.5
Western Asset Hi Yld D O **HYI**	15.58	14.42	-7.4	7.6
Other Domestic Taxable Bond Funds				
Ares Dynamic Crdt Alloc **ARDC**	14.85	12.65	-14.8	9.8
Barings Part Inv **MPV**	NA	10.99	NA	8.4
BlackRock Mlt-Sctr Inc **BIT**	17.82	16.08	-9.8	9.2
BlackRock Tax Muni Bd **BBN**	25.07	26.29	+4.9	5.0
DoubleLine Oppor Crdt Fd **DBL**	19.36	19.14	-1.1	7.2
Duff&Ph Util Cor **DUC**	9.68	9.22	-4.8	5.8
EVLmtDurIncm **EVV**	13.36	11.80	-11.7	9.97
Franklin Ltd Dur Income **FTF**	9.33	8.72	-6.5	11.0
J Han Investors **JHI**	17.73	16.47	-7.1	7.9
KKR Income Opportunities **KIO**	14.67	13.56	-7.6	11.1
MFS Charter **MCR**	8.84	8.57	-3.1	8.2
Nuveen Taxable Muni Inc **NBB**	22.68	22.64	-0.2	4.9
PIMCO Corp & Inc Oppty **PTY**	12.77	16.16	+26.5	9.8
PIMCO Corp & Inc Strat **PCN**	13.08	15.88	+21.4	8.9
PIMCOHiInco **PHK**	5.17	5.48	+6.0	12.7
PIMCO IncmStrFd **PFL**	9.72	10.10	+3.9	10.6
PIMCO IncmStrFd II **PFN**	8.71	9.06	+4.0	10.5
Putnam Mas Int **PIM**	4.34	4.14	-4.6	8.6
Putnam Prem Inc **PPT**	4.80	4.60	-4.2	9.1
Wells Fargo Multi-Sector **ERC**	12.41	11.33	-8.7	10.4
World Income Funds				
Abrdn AP IncFd **FAX**	NA	4.11	NA	7.3
BrndywnGLB Glb Inc Oppts **BWG**	13.88	12.45	-10.3	6.6
EtnVncStDivInc **EVG**	13.36	11.47	-14.1	7.8
MS EmMktDomDebt **EDD**	7.00	5.81	-17.0	8.4
PIMCO Dyn Crd & Mrt Inc **PCI**	18.88	19.01	+0.7	13.4
PIMCO Dynamic Income **PDI**	23.49	24.49	+4.3	12.6
PIMCO Income Opportunity **PKO**	22.25	23.46	+5.4	9.7
PIMCO Stratg Inc **RCS**	6.23	6.39	+2.6	10.9
Templeton Em Inc **TEI**	9.04	7.52	-16.8	8.4
TempItn Glbl Inc **GIM**	6.14	5.30	-13.7	5.2
WstAstEmergDebt **EMD**	15.14	13.09	-13.5	9.2
Western Asset Gl Cr D Op **GDO**	18.36	17.25	-6.0	6.9
National Muni Bond Funds				
AllBerNatlMunInc **AFB**	15.09	13.49	-10.6	4.2
BlckRk Inv Q Mun **BKN**	16.34	15.96	-2.3	4.4
BlackRock Muni 2030 Tgt **BTT**	26.15	24.58	-6.0	3.0
BlackRock Muni **BFK**	14.28	14.00	-2.0	4.6
BlackRock Muni II **BLE**	14.75	14.65	-0.7	4.7
BlckRk Muni Inc Qlty **BYM**	15.55	14.06	-9.6	4.0
BR MuniAssets Fd **MUA**	14.02	14.34	+2.3	4.3
BR MuniEnhanced **MEN**	12.19	11.17	-8.4	4.2
BR MuniHoldings Qlty **MFL**	14.73	13.30	-9.7	4.0
BR MH Qlty 2 **MUE**	14.01	12.79	-8.7	4.2
BR MuniHoldngs **MHD**	16.76	15.40	-8.1	4.7
BR MuniVest Fd **MVF**	9.61	8.73	-9.2	4.6
BR MuniVest 2 **MVT**	15.08	13.88	-8.0	4.7
BR MuniYield Fd **MYD**	14.74	13.59	-7.8	4.8
BR MuniYield Qlty **MQY**	16.26	15.68	-3.6	4.1
BR MuniYld Qlty2 **MQT**	14.25	13.16	-7.6	4.1
BR MuniYld Qlty 3 **MYI**	14.85	13.36	-10.0	3.9
BNY Mellon Muni Bd Infra **DMB**	14.24	13.57	-4.7	4.6
BNY Mellon Str Muni Bond **DSM**	8.13	7.45	-8.4	4.9
BNY Mellon Strat Muni **LEO**	8.42	8.28	-1.7	5.0
DWS Muni Inc **KTF**	12.54	11.20	-10.7	4.2
EVMuniBd **EIM**	14.15	12.89	-8.9	4.2
EVMuniIncm **EVN**	13.93	12.52	-10.1	4.4
EVNatMuniOpp **EOT**	21.32	20.51	-3.8	4.0
InvAdvMuInc TrII **VKI**	11.94	10.88	-8.9	4.8
Invesco MuniOp **OIA**	7.47	7.45	-0.3	5.1
InvescoMuOppTr **VMO**	13.36	12.37	-7.4	4.7
InvescoMuTr **VKQ**	13.37	12.23	-8.5	4.7
InvescoQual Inc **IQI**	13.57	12.36	-8.9	4.7
InvTrInvGrMu **VGM**	13.79	12.51	-9.3	4.7
InvescoValMunInc **IIM**	16.47	14.87	-9.7	4.6
MAINSTAY MK DEFTR MUN OP **MMD**	NA	20.70	NA	4.7
NeubrgrBrm **NBH**	14.90	14.80	-0.7	4.9
Nuveen AMT-Fr Mu Val **NUW**	16.96	16.25	-4.2	3.0
Nuveen AMT-Fr Qlty Mun I **NEA**	15.69	14.25	-9.2	4.6
Nuveen AMT-Fr Mu Cl **NVG**	16.98	15.55	-8.4	5.0
Nuveen Enh Muni Val **NEV**	15.26	14.90	-2.4	4.5
Nuveen Int Dur Mun Term **NID**	13.88	13.36	-3.7	3.8
Nuveen Mu Crdt Opps **NMCO**	13.10	12.91	-1.5	NS
Nuv Muni Credit Income **NZF**	16.23	14.76	-9.1	5.1
NuvMuniHiIncOpp **NMZ**	13.40	13.19	-1.6	5.3
Nuveen Muni Val **NUV**	10.59	10.58	-0.1	3.4
Nuveen Quality Muni Inc **NAD**	15.96	14.41	-9.7	4.5
Nuveen Sel TF **NXP**	16.17	16.91	+4.6	3.2
Nuveen Sel TF 2 **NXQ**	15.45	15.12	-2.1	3.2
Nuveen Sel TF 3 **NXR**	16.68	16.41	-1.6	3.1
PIMCO MuniInc **PMF**	12.97	13.35	+2.9	5.0
PIMCOMuniIncII **PML**	12.13	13.34	+10.0	5.4
Pimco Muni III **PMX**	11.05	11.40	+3.2	4.9
PioneerHiIncAdv **MAV**	12.17	10.91	-10.4	4.2
PioneerMunHiIcmT **MHI**	13.03	11.59	-11.1	4.6
Putnam Mgd Inc **PMM**	7.99	7.72	-3.4	4.9
Putnam Muni Opp **PMO**	13.68	13.23	-3.3	4.8
RiverNorth Mgd Dur Mun I **RMM**	18.66	16.86	-9.6	5.9
Western Asset Mgd Muni **MMU**	13.64	12.20	-10.6	4.5
Westn Asst Mu Def Opp Tr **MTT**	20.81	20.24	-2.7	3.5
Single State Muni Bond				
BlackRock CA Mun **BFZ**	15.54	13.44	-13.5	3.4
BR MH CA Qlty Fd Inc **MUC**	15.69	14.25	-9.2	3.8
BR MH NJ Qlty **MUJ**	15.76	13.98	-11.3	4.6
BR MH NY Qlty **MHN**	14.90	13.79	-7.4	4.0
BR MuniYld CA **MYC**	15.87	13.90	-12.4	3.6
BR MuniYld CA Qly **MCA**	15.81	14.59	-7.7	3.9
BR MuniYld MI Qly **MIY**	15.67	13.99	-10.7	4.2
BR MuniYld NJ **MYJ**	15.80	14.19	-10.2	5.1
BR MuniYld NY Qly **MYN**	14.31	13.12	-8.3	3.9
EVCAMuniBd **EVM**	12.70	11.45	-9.8	3.9
Eaton Vance NY Muni Bd **ENX**	13.34	11.91	-10.7	4.0
InvCaValMuInc Tr **VCV**	13.51	12.37	-8.4	4.2
InvPAValMuInc Tr **VPV**	14.02	12.54	-10.6	4.6
InvTrInvGrNYMu **VTN**	14.11	12.42	-12.0	4.5
Nuveen CA AMT-F Qual MI **NKX**	16.64	15.32	-7.9	4.0
Nuveen CA Val **NCA**	10.76	10.54	-2.0	3.1
NuveenCAQtyMuInc **NAC**	16.06	14.50	-9.7	4.2
Nuveen MD Qual Muni Inc **NMY**	14.97	13.08	-12.6	4.1
Nuveen MI Qual Muni Inc **NUM**	16.05	14.04	-12.5	3.9
NuvNJ Qual Muni Inc **NXJ**	16.27	13.64	-16.2	4.6
Nuveen NY AMT/Fr Qual MI **NRK**	14.77	12.90	-12.7	4.1
Nuveen NY Qual Muni Inc **NAN**	15.26	13.74	-10.0	4.3
Nuveen OH Qual Muni Inc **NUO**	17.59	15.22	-13.5	3.4
Nuveen PA Qual Muni Inc **NQP**	15.66	13.68	-12.6	4.5
Nuveen VA Qlty Mun Inc **NPV**	15.05	15.27	+1.5	3.5
PIMCO CA **PCQ**	13.96	17.42	+24.8	4.6
PIMCOCAMuniII **PCK**	8.87	9.10	+2.6	4.3
Pimco CA Muni III **PZC**	10.06	10.64	+5.8	4.5

Fund (SYM)	NAV	Close	Prem /Disc	52 wk Ttl Ret
General Equity Funds				
FNEX Ventures	10.00	NA	NA	N
Specialized Equity Funds				
Bluerock Total Inc+ RE:A	29.34	NA	NA	2.1
Bluerock Total Inc+ RE:C	27.98	NA	NA	1.4
Bluerock Total Inc+ RE:I	29.88	NA	NA	2.4
Bluerock Total Inc+ RE:L	29.10	NA	NA	1.9
Broadstone RI Est Acc:I	9.55	NA	NA	-5.0
Broadstone RI Est Acc:W	9.54	NA	NA	-5.2
CIM RA&C A	25.08	NA	NA	NS
CIM RA&C C	25.01	NA	NA	NS
CIM RA&C I	25.10	NA	NA	NS
CIM RA&C L	25.06	NA	NA	NS
Clarion Partners REI D	9.82	NA	NA	NS
Clarion Partners REI I	9.82	NA	NA	NS
Clarion Partners REI S	9.81	NA	NA	NS
Clarion Partners REI T	9.80	NA	NA	NS
Griffin Inst Access RE:A	25.23	NA	NA	-3.6
Griffin Inst Access RE:C	24.31	NA	NA	-4.3
Griffin Inst Access RE:I	25.56	NA	NA	-3.4
GS Real Est Div Inc:A	9.61	NA	NA	-5.8
GS Real Est Div Inc:C	9.59	NA	NA	-6.4
GS Real Est Div Inc:I	10.02	NA	NA	-5.6
GS Real Est Div Inc:L	9.61	NA	NA	-6.0
GS Real Est Div Inc:W	9.75	NA	NA	-5.8
NexPointRlEstStrat;A	15.36	NA	NA	-20.7
NexPointRlEstStrat;C	15.53	NA	NA	-21.0
NexPointRlEstStrat;Z	15.51	NA	NA	-20.2
PREDEX;I	25.31	NA	NA	0.4
PREDEX;T	25.39	NA	NA	0.4
PREDEX;W	25.39	NA	NA	0.4
Principal Dvs Sel RA A	23.19	NA	NA	-5.8
Principal Dvs Sel RA Y	23.24	NA	NA	-5.5
SharesPost 100;A	31.47	NA	NA	8.1
SharesPost 100:I	31.68	NA	NA	8.3
SharesPost 100:L	31.27	NA	NA	7.8
USQ Core Real Estate:I	24.89	NA	NA	0.1
USQ Core Real Estate:IS	24.90	NA	NA	0.2
Versus Cap MMgr RE Inc:I	26.83	NA	NA	NE
Versus Capital Real Asst	24.73	NA	NA	0.0
Wildermuth Endwmnt:A	13.29	NA	NA	-1.3
Wildermuth Endwmnt:C	12.82	NA	NA	-2.2
Wildermuth Endowment:I	13.35	NA	NA	-1.5
Income & Preferred Stock Funds				
A3 Alternative Cr	10.63	NA	NA	NS
Calamos L/S Eqty and DI **CPZ**	NA	15.08	NA	NS
Destra Multi-Altrntv;A	11.63	NA	NA	-8.3
Destra Multi-Altrntv;C	11.14	NA	NA	-9.1
Destra Multi-Altrntv;I	11.86	NA	NA	-8.1
Destra Multi-Altrntv;T	11.30	NA	NA	-8.8
Flat Rock Opportunity	17.17	NA	NA	-2.9
The Relative Value:CIA	24.63	NA	NA	1.3
Variant Altrntv Inc:Inst	26.51	NA	NA	6.0
Variant Altrntv Inc:Inv	26.51	NA	NA	5.7
Convertible Sec's. Funds				
Calmos Dyn Conv and Inc **CCD**	25.50	22.61	-11.3	39.3
World Equity Funds				
ACAP Strategic:A	25.34	NA	NA	38.4
ACAP Strategic:W	18.90	NA	NA	39.4
BMO LGM Front ME;I	6.29	NA	NA	-23.3
CalamosGlbTotRet **CGO**	12.68	12.81	+1.0	20.1
Primark Priv Eq Inv:III	10.00	NA	NA	NS
VirtusTotalRetFd **ZTR**	9.00	7.98	-11.3	-2.6

Fund (SYM)	NAV	Close	Prem /Disc	12 Mo Yld
Loan Participation Funds				
1WS Credit Income	19.20	NA	NA	6.2
AlphCntrc Prime Merid In	9.96	NA	NA	NS
Angel Oak Str Crdt:Inst	21.63	NA	NA	8.0
Axonic Alternative Inc	20.93	NA	NA	3.9
Blackstone/GSO FR EI D	22.93	NA	NA	6.1
Blackstone/GSO FR EI I	22.90	NA	NA	6.4
Blackstone/GSO FR EI T	22.86	NA	NA	5.9
Blackstone/GSO FR EI T-I	23.35	NA	NA	5.9
Blackstone/GSO FR EI U	23.87	NA	NA	NS
Blstn Commnty Dev	10.16	NA	NA	3.4
BNYM Alcntr Glb MS Cr Fd	NA	NA	NA	5.5
CLIFFWATER CL FD;I	10.28	NA	NA	4.4
CNR Strategic Credit	9.22	NA	NA	9.1
FedProj&TrFinanceTendr	9.91	NA	NA	3.8
FS Global Crdt Opptys D	NA	NA	NA	7.5
Garrison Capital Inc **GARS**	NA	3.47	NA	NA
Schrdrs Opp Inc;A	24.79	NA	NA	NS
Schrdrs Opp Inc;A2	24.77	NA	NA	NS
Schrdrs Opp Inc;I	24.83	NA	NA	NS
Schrdrs Opp Inc;SDR	24.86	NA	NA	NS
Invesco Sr Loan A	6.05	NA	NA	4.9
Invesco Sr Loan C	6.06	NA	NA	4.1
Invesco Sr Loan IB	6.05	NA	NA	5.2
Invesco Sr Loan IC	6.05	NA	NA	5.0
Invesco Sr Loan Y	6.05	NA	NA	5.2
Pioneer Sec Inc	8.72	NA	NA	NS
High Yield Bond Funds				
Griffin Inst Access Cd:A	23.04	NA	NA	6.5
Griffin Inst Access Cd:C	23.04	NA	NA	6.5
Griffin Inst Access Cd:F	23.04	NA	NA	6.5
Griffin Inst Access Cd:I	23.04	NA	NA	6.5
Griffin Inst Access Cd:L	23.03	NA	N

European Stocks Rebound From Rout

By Anna Isaac

European stocks climbed after wild swings in tech shares dragged markets lower last week. U.S. stock trading was closed for Labor Day.

The pan-continental Stoxx Europe 600 finished the day up 1.7%.

MONDAY'S MARKETS

Early Tuesday, in Asia, Japan's Nikkei Stock Average was up 0.5% at midday. SoftBank Group, which lost 7.2% on Monday, was down a further 1.3%. It was disclosed Monday that SoftBank placed a bet on a rise in tech stocks involving options tied to as much as $50 billion in shares.

In U.S. stock futures trading, S&P 500 futures were up 0.4% Monday night. But Nasdaq futures were down 0.5%.

The gains in Europe came as data on German industrial production showed a continued but slowing recovery. Concerns remained that the long-running tech rally which has driven major U.S. benchmarks to records, skewing indexes toward technology companies, might be ending.

"We're getting a bit of a rotation out of the stay-at-home trade," said Mark Haefele, chief investment officer at UBS Global Wealth Management. "That's boding well for the value and cyclical stocks.

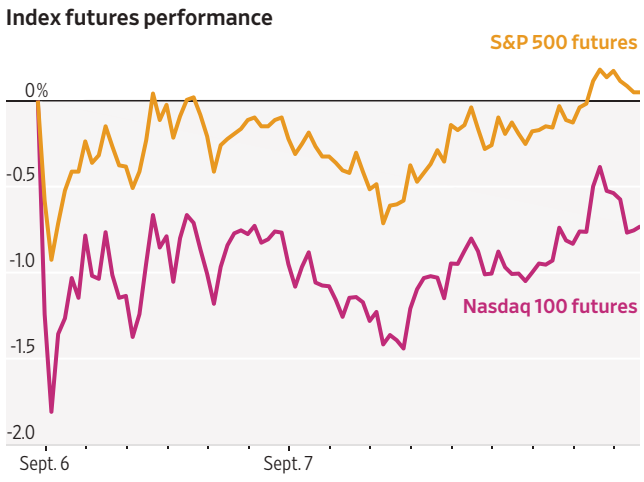
"It also should be good for Europe as while infections have risen a little bit, death rates are extremely low and people are starting to focus on the recovery," He added.

Low interest rates, a weak outlook for inflation and the risk of a prolonged recession were also making it hard for strategists to plan for a shift downward in equity prices.

"We're exiting the exciting part of the recovery where you've had rapid growth for a short period of time," said James McCormick, a strategist at NatWest Markets. "As we reach the cruising altitude for the recovery, we're going to find it a lot more worrying."

"If equities and credit do experience some downside, where are you going to go? You've got record low yields, fixed income isn't going to provide that natural hedge anymore," Mr. McCormick said.

Index futures performance



Source: FactSet

On Monday, shares in **Semiconductor Manufacturing International** Corp., which is China's most advanced chip maker, fell as much as 24% in Hong Kong after the U.S. government said it was considering placing export restrictions on the company. The step would mark a major escalation in the Trump administration's crackdown on Chinese technology companies. Early Tuesday, the shares were up 2.6%.

In Shanghai, where the company recently raised billions of dollars through a second listing to boost its production capacity, SMIC shares fell more than 9% and were down 1.4% early Tuesday.

In a day thin on data due to the U.S. holiday, China's exports continued their strong performance in August, as the continued global recovery boosted external demand.

Exports rose 9.5% from a year earlier, following a 7.2% increase in July, the General Administration of Customs said. Economists in a Wall Street Journal poll had expected 7.3% growth.

German industrial production increased for the third consecutive month in July, but its recovery lost steam, federal statistics office Destatis said. Economists said the data suggested the German manufacturing sector was still far from a full recovery.

Segments of the Stoxx Europe 600 most exposed to bets on industrials led gains in the region.

In currencies, the ICE Dollar Index, which tracks the dollar against a basket of major currencies, rose 0.4%. The British pound fell 0.9% against the dollar and 0.7% against the euro.

News reports suggested a worsening risk the U.K. would exit from a transition phase at the end of the year without striking a trade deal with its largest trading partner, the European Union. This, along with the prospect of potential tax increases and rising coronavirus cases, weighed on sterling.

"The temperature in talks has risen overnight," said Jordan Rochester, currency analyst at Nomura Bank. "The mood music was awful for the past few weeks and the market largely ignored it—that is shifted. It seems like there is no optimism for a proper deal.

"I'm bearish on sterling, and I expect a weak pound to continue," he added.

In commodities, global benchmark Brent crude fell 1.4% to $42.06 a barrel after state oil giant Saudi Aramco on Saturday lowered pricing for oil it will sell to Asia and the U.S.

Euro's Rally Spells Trouble For Companies on Continent

By Caitlin Ostroff

The euro's rally this year is seen as a vote of confidence by investors on the prospects for Europe's economic recovery. But companies and their shareholders are bracing for pain.

The euro has climbed 5.6% against the dollar this year, its biggest advance since 2017. On Sept. 1, it surpassed $1.20 for the first time since May 2018.

CURRENCIES

The currency is near a record on what is known as a trade-weighted basis. That means the euro has also strengthened against the currencies of other major trading partners, including China and the U.K.

When the euro is strong, it makes exports such as machinery, cars and chemicals from the eurozone more expensive for foreign buyers. It also erodes the value of overseas sales for companies in the 19 member states and can chip away at profits just as they emerge from the Covid-19 economic crunch.

"We're at the start of the pain threshold when I look at the trade-weighted index," said Viraj Patel, a foreign-exchange and global-rates strategist at research firm Arkera. "If it stays here, it's a small problem. If it goes higher, it's a big problem."

The gains in the euro mirror a weakening in the dollar. Investors have eased out of the greenback in recent months, after the Federal Reserve signaled it would keep interest rates low and allow inflation to climb. That has erased 3.7% from the dollar's value this year.

The strengthening euro hasn't weighed much on European stocks yet, though it is one of the reasons equity benchmarks in the region have lagged behind the U.S. gauges, analysts said. The Euro Stoxx index, a benchmark tracking a broad swath of stocks in the euro area, is down about 11% this year, compared with the S&P 500's 6% advance.

The real impact from the currency's strengthening will start showing up on companies' bottom lines, analysts said.

But it is hard to quantify how much it will eat into corporate earnings. Companies with more than $250 million in earnings typically deal in 40 currencies with more than 200 cross currencies, said Wolfgang Koester, senior strategist at Kyriba, a financial-software company.

"There is a tendency to really balance this off what's happening between the U.S. versus Europe, but in reality it's much more complex than that," Mr. Koester said.

Eurozone companies in general derive more of their income from abroad than large U.S. businesses, which rely more on the American consumer, said Lars Kreckel, global equity strategist at Legal & General Investment Management. For every 10% that the euro strengthens against the dollar, eurozone corporations stand to lose about 3% in profits, he estimated. For S&P 500 companies, a 10% appreciation in the dollar costs companies as much as 2%.

When the euro is strong, it makes exports such as cars more expensive for foreign buyers.

FRANCESCA VOLPI FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

European car makers are likely to see profits eroded by a stronger euro, said Gianluca Bertuzzo, an equity research analyst at Italian investment bank Intermonte Sim SpA. Italian-American **Fiat Chrysler Automobiles** NV and Italian racing-car manufacturer **Ferrari** see much of their sales outside the eurozone. Fiat Chrysler, for instance, draws an estimated 70% of its revenue from North America.

Ferrari only builds its cars in Italy, which means much of its costs are in euros while its sales are largely in other currencies. For every 1% that the euro strengthens against the dollar, Ferrari's earnings per share could fall about 1%, Mr. Bertuzzo estimated. The car maker's earnings for the third and fourth quarters, year over year, are likely to be eroded by the currency's depreciation.

Fiat Chrysler declined to comment. Ferrari didn't respond to requests for comment.

Warnings About Tech Shares

Continued from page B1

already begun and what the broader effects on the rest of the market and the economy could be.

The danger signs cover three broad areas: overly optimistic sentiment, the impact of options trading, and the speed and scale of the rise of leviathan technology stocks, which have left much of the rest of the market in the dust.

Any indicator tied to the big tech stocks shows how sentiment is extremely positive, aided by the return of the day trader. This shows up both in the stock and option markets, where Japan's **SoftBank** has poured in roughly $4 billion. Most obviously, trading volume on Nasdaq, where most of the tech stocks are listed, are running at more than double their levels before the pandemic, while trading in NYSE stocks—which surged when markets plunged—fell almost all the way back to normal.

Day traders piled into options, too, especially the call options that offer a way to multiply one's money if the market rises—or lose it all if it falls. Options trading took off as brokers made it free, and is focused on big, popular stocks. As a result, they became a lot more volatile, even as the price rose, because the brokers have to hedge their positions. Hedging call options accentuates moves in the price, because when the stock price rises, the dealers need to buy more to cover risk, and when the price falls they can sell.

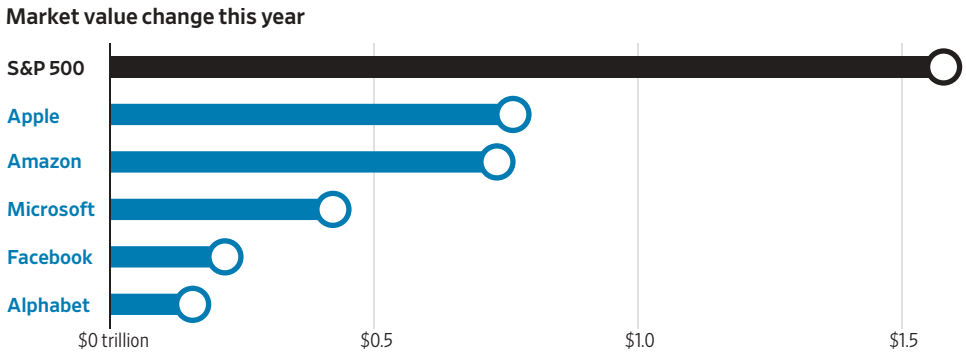
The optimism of SoftBank and the day traders is visible in the ratio of calls on individual stocks to the defensive put options that protect against losses. Smoothing the noisy ratio over 10 days, on Wednesday call options outnumbered puts by the most since March 2000, the height of the dot-com bubble.

Options are intimately tied to volatility, and volatility has been weird. The VIX index of implied volatility on the S&P 500 usually falls when stocks rise a lot, but in the past two months it has risen even as the S&P had some of its best returns in history. The breakdown of normal market relationships is a good reason to worry.

Even as tech optimism is obvious, sentiment in much of the rest of the market remains morose. Bears still outnumber bulls in the weekly survey of members of the American Association of Individual Investors—a group that doesn't capture those new to trading since lockdown.

The split is captured by the gap in performance of the growth stocks and cheap stocks, known as value. By Wednesday's high, the Russell 1000 measure of growth stocks was up by a third this year, while the value index was down almost 8%.

Market value change this year



Source: Refinitiv

Still, the excess is different from that of the dot-com bubble. Back then, stocks thrived on hope, with little in the way of sales and profits a figment of someone's spreadsheet. This time, the stocks that are up a lot are frequently highly profitable, and almost all are winners from the pandemic and from low bond yields. The danger isn't that they prove worthless, as with so many dot-coms. Instead, it is that investors are projecting that every year will be like this year.

Perhaps the biggest pandemic winner is Zoom Video Communications, which scored the rare success of turning its name into a verb. Sales and profit are soaring—but the shares are soaring even more. At 144 times its own upgraded forecast of operating profits (adjusted, but let's be optimistic!) its shares are priced not only for work-from-home to become the norm, but for Zoom to beat deep-pocketed contenders for the verb, such as **Microsoft**-owned Skype, Google's Meet and **Facebook**'s WhatsApp.

Thursday's price moves showed what can happen when investors change their minds. Zoom shares fell 10%, while the biggest gainer in the S&P 500 was cruise line **Carnival**, with a 5% rise.

The big tech stocks might have fallen, but they remain enormous. The market hasn't been so dominated by a handful of giants since the 1970s. The value of just the big five of **Amazon**, Apple, **Alphabet**, Facebook and Microsoft rose by $2.87 trillion in the year to Wednesday, just ahead of the $2.85 trillion rise in the S&P 500's value. The five then lost an astonishing $522 billion of value on Thursday and Friday.

The difficulty with calling what's been going on a bubble is that it makes sense that the companies performing the best should also have the top-performing shares, and the shares of the companies doing the worst should plummet. When views on the pandemic and the political reaction switch, the winners rightly fall back and the losers jump.

The trouble is that momentum has taken hold too. The gap between the winners and losers is vast; on some measures it is the biggest ever. Small changes in reality or in sentiment can lead to big rotations when that gap closes just a little, as in last week.

MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES

Peloton is expected to post earnings on Thursday of 9 cents a share.

THE TICKER | Market events coming this week

Tuesday

Consumer Credit
June, previous up $9 bil.
July, expected up $13 bil.

Earnings expected*
Estimate/Year Ago($)
Casey's General Stores **2.06**/2.31
HealthEquity **0.27**/0.45
Lululemon Athletica **0.56**/0.96
Slack Technologies **(0.03)**/(0.14)

Wednesday

Mort. bankers indexes
Purch., prev. down 0.2%
Refinan., prev. down 3%

Earnings expected*
Estimate/Year Ago($)
American Eagle Outfitters **(0.17)**/0.39
BigCommerce Holdings **(0.50)**/n.a.
Descartes Systems Group **0.13**/0.10
HD Supply Holdings **0.73**/1.08
RH **3.40**/3.20
Zscaler **0.03**/0.07

Thursday

Short-selling reports
Ratio, days of trading volume of current position, at Aug 14
NYSE 3.4
Nasdaq 2.3

EIA status report
Previous change in stocks in millions of barrels
Crude-oil stocks down 9.4
Gasoline stocks down 4.3
Distillates down 1.7

EIA report: natural-gas
Previous change in stocks in billions of cubic feet
up 35

Initial jobless claims
Previous 881,000
Expected 850,000

Producer price index
All items, July up 0.6%
Aug., expected up 0.2%
Core, July up 0.5%
Aug., expected up 0.3%

Wholesale inventories
June, previous down 1.4%
July, expected down 0.1%

Earnings expected*
Estimate/Year Ago($)
Chewy **(0.18)**/(0.21)
Oracle **0.86**/0.81
Peloton Interactive **0.09**/(0.14)

Friday

consumer-price index
All items, July up 0.6%
Aug., expected up 0.3%
Core, July up 0.6%
Aug., expected up 0.3%

Treasury budget
Aug., '19 $200.0 bil. deficit
Aug.,'20, exp N/A

Earnings expected*
Estimate/Year Ago($)
Kroger **0.52**/0.44

* FACTSET ESTIMATES EARNINGS-PER-SHARE ESTIMATES DON'T INCLUDE EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS (LOSSES IN PARENTHESES) ◆ ADJUSTED FOR STOCK SPLIT
NOTE: FORECASTS ARE FROM DOW JONES WEEKLY SURVEY OF ECONOMISTS

考研资料：数学、英语、政治、管综、西综、法硕等（整合各大机构）
英语类：四六级万词班专四专八雅思等
财经类：初级会计、中级会计、注册会计、高级会计、税务师、会计实操、证券从业、基金从业、资产评估、初级审
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精选资料：Excel 教程、PPT 模板、简历模板、PS 教程、PPT 教程、素描、烹饪、小语种、CAD 教程、PR 教程、UI 课程、自媒体、写作、计算机二级、钢琴、Python、书法、吉他、kindle 电子书、演讲.....持续更新中...
押题：提供考前冲刺押题（初级会计、中级会计、注册会计、一建、二建、教资、四六级、证券、基金、期货等等），麻麻再也不用担心我考不过了。
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挑战杯/创青春/互联网+竞赛资料	电子设计竞赛必备资料	街舞 0 基础入门教程
托福雅思备考资料	大学物理学科攻略合集	动漫自学教程
SCI 最全写作攻略	TEM4/TEM8 专四专八备考资料	教师资格证面试试讲万能模板
360 份精美简历模板	数学建模 0 基础从入门到精通	100 套快闪 PPT 模板
Vlog 制作最全攻略	超强 PR 模板	42 套卡通风 PPT 模板
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327 套水彩风 PPT 模板	295 套手绘风 PPT 模板	54 套毕业答辩专属 PPT
196 套日系和风 PPT 模板	82 套文艺清新 PPT 模板	57 套思维导图 PPT 模板
163 套学术答辩 PPT 模板	53 套北欧风 PPT 模板	34 套温暖治愈系 PPT 模板
118 套国潮风 PPT 模板	30 套仙系古风 PPT	126 套黑板风 PPT 模板
114 套星空风格 PPT 模板	192 套欧美商务风 PPT 模板	42 套绚丽暈染风 PPT
50 套精美 INS 风 PPT 模板	56 套水墨风 PPT 模板	137 套清爽夏日风 PPT 模板
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300 套教学说课 PPT 模板	123 套医学护理 PPT 模板	AE 动态模板微信 2270291360
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